UAAP suspends La Salle for 1 year

■ METRO/A21

Edsa-Taft, Ayala Avenue, Pedro Gil among noisiest in Metro Manila, says UST study



= SUPER/DI Super! invades shores of Bora bora, bang, bang ■ SAT. SPECIAL / A2-2

Christine Bersola-Babao writes about her 'miracle' in Macau during Holy Week

Free breast exams put fake doctor behind bars



MIAMI-A 78-YEAR-OLD man claiming to be a doctor went door-to-door in a Florida neighborhood offering free breast exams, and was charged with sexually assaulting two woman who accepted the offer, police said on Thursday.

entil: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, April 22, 2006

7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 133

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

President

cañang.

project

scandal.

EMBOLDENED BY A Supreme Court ruling voiding portions of

gal-Arroyo's Executive

Order No. 464, senators are preparing to

rattle skeletons they be-

lieve are hidden in gov-

ernment closets, in-

cluding those in Mala-

In the House of Representatives, a senior pro-administration

congressman yesterday ex-

decision could "open a Pandora's

box," aggrevating President

Drilon declared he would revive

the suspended inquiry by the chamber's committee of the

whole into the allegedly overpriced \$503-million NorthRail

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of

the committee on national de-

fense, has a different target: With

EO 464 out of the way, the com-

mittee could start sending out

fresh invitations to high and

low-ranking military officials

who had snubbed its hearings in-

to the "Hello Garci" wiretapping

them," Biazon said in an inter-

view, referring to Armed Forces

Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and other military officials.

resumption of investigations into

questionable acts of the execu-

Militant lawmakers sought the

"We can now start inviting

Macapagal-Arroyo's problems. Senate President Franklin

Macapa-

SC ruling: Good fences make good neighbors

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

AS THE SAYING GOES, GOOD FENCES MAKE good neighbors. But that is really not enough: The neighbors must COMMENTARY know and accept

where the fences are The decision of the Supreme Court did not plant new fences. The fences dividing the execu-

Senate to resume probe of scandals

House leaders fear opening of 'Pandora's box'





GOTCHA: Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, a graduating Masscom student of the Cavite State University, shouted at President Arroyo as "fake" and called for her ouster as the President was delivering the commencement address. Still, the graduate who's president of the university's central student government, was allowed to go up the stage (above right), get her diploma and receive congratulations from a smiling Ms Arroyo albeit both looked away from each other.

Students heckle GMA in Cavite graduation

By Gil Cabacungan ja and Marlon Ramos PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INDANG, CAVITE-PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was heckled here yesterday by a Mass Com-

Cavite State University, turning the afternoon commencement exercise into a nightmare of protests against her.

President's speech, the student, guards of the university immedi-

munication graduate of the Maria Theresa Pangilinan, shout- ately went to where Pangilinan ed "Patalsikin si (Oust) Gloria" was sitting and confiscated the while holding up a red banner with the words "No to Chacha," A member of the Presidential Secu-Just a few minutes into the rity Group and two security

The President was visibly stunned but kept her poise and resumed her speech.

Lottery racket rivalry seen in Saudi slays

By Volt Contreras

RIVALRY OVER COMPETING ILlegal lottery operations has emerged as a plausible motive for the gruesome killings in Saudi Arabia involving a group of Fil-

ipino workers. One of the seven Filipino sus-

pects being detained by Saudi police has admitted to operating a lottery in competition with another run by another Pilipino, one of three missing Filipinos whose disappearance coincided with the discovery of butchered body parts in Jeddah two weeks ago.

The seven suspects have admit-

ted to killing the three missing Filipinos, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, quoting from an April 20 report from Con-

sul General Pendosina Lomondor. The Saudi police have informed the Philippine consulate in Jeddah that the seven Filipino suspects had revealed how and

where they carried out the crime,

Lomondot's report added.
With this development in the investigation, the Saudi police should have already cleared and released the many other Filipinos who have been detained, the DFA

LOTYERY/A15

CHIEF JUSTICE PANGANIBAN:

SC chief: The only winner is *iustice*

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PAnganiban yesterday squelched speculation that political pressure came into play in the Supreme Court ruling striking down parts of presidential Executive Order No. 464, and said the justices decided the issue without regard for who won or lost politi-

pressed concern the high court "The only winner here is justice," Panganiban told reporters at the launch of the Judicial Bar and Council's website at the high tribunal's session hall.

Some critics had claimed pressures from Malacañang might have persuaded the high tribunal to come out with a ruling that would appease the public and the lawmakers who peritioned that the EO 464 be declared unconstitutional, while at the same time providing protection for the executive department.

"We decided based on what the Constitution mandates and on the basis of law. We are not particular on who loses or wins," Panganiban said.

"The decision speaks for itself. What we declared void were those provisions in conflict with the Constitution," Panganiban said, referring to Sections 2 (b) and Section 3 of the EO that required officials of the executive department to obtain presidential consent before testifying in

Philip Salvador convicted of estafa

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BIBLE THAT SLIPPED FROM under Phillip Salvador's right arm while the court decision on the estafa case against him and his brother was being read out yesterday seemed to portend how things would end for the luckless movie actor.

Salvador was found guilty of swindling his ex-girlfriend, businesswoman Christina Castillo-Decena, of \$100,000 that was to have capitalized a freight and money remittance business to be set up in Hong Kong.

Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray of the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court Branch 202 sentenced Salvador to four to 20 years in prison and ordered him to pay Decena the \$100,000 she had raised to bankroll the business.

Salvador's brother, Ramon, was acquitted because of insuffi-

clency of evidence. "This court, assessing the evi-



ered opinion that the prosecution was able to prove that [estafa] was committed and that [Salvador] is guilty beyond reasonable doubt," the 24-page decision

But the court said the evidence presented by the prosecution did not establish the participation of Salvador's brother in the crime,

PHILIP/A10

Woman is RP's hero of zero-garbage

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN IN A BRIGHTLY COlored uniform pushes a wooden cart with a towering roof along the labyrinthine streets of Bagong Silang in Caloocan City.

For 24 hours daily, he and his fellow "eco-sides" at the city's Environmental Sanitation Services office move from house to house, collecting wastes initially segregated by residents.

Then they proceed to the material recovery facility (MRF) at where Hall garbage—blodegradable, non-blodegradable, and residual—is segregated once more. Very little garbage is thrown away. Most of it is either sold or goes back to the

People in the once smelly and riotous barangay of Bagong

such a discipline. Not until someone showed them how.

They learned the technique and the patience from Theresa Calo, a trainer at the Mother Earth Foundation, a nongovern-

ment organization advocating environmental protection. The 30-year-old Calo goes around the country, teaching Filipinos how to dispose of their waste properly. Caloocan, a city of more than a million people,

was one of her stops last year. A report released by the Asian Development Bank in 2004 says Metro Manila generates about 6,700 tons of garbage every day, of which 720 tons is recycled or composted. About 6,000 tons is thrown in dumps, on private land, on rivers and creeks, on Manila Bay, or burned.

In the last three years, Calo has



such as this one in Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, is environmentally sound to house non-foldegradable and recyclable waste. CONTRACTO

dence on record, is of the consid-Silang had never been used to ford rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thursderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Cloudy with Rate

PCGG: Deal with Marcoses near

By Alcum Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government is now saying that a compromise settlement with former First Lady Imelda Marcos over the ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos is within reach.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede told a news conference yesterday that he met Wednesday night with an intermediary of Mrs. Marcos for more than an hour, describing the talks as "fruitful" and "meaningful."

An upbeat Abcede predicted that a compromise agreement with the Marcoses would be struck this year.

"I was able to conduct ex-

ploratory talks with a representative of Mrs. Marcos last night," Abcede said, adding that he could not reveal the identity of the intermediary.

But he said the intermediary was not related by blood to the Marcoses, but was "very close to them" and "very influential."

"I am assured that he or she was given authority by Mrs. Marcos to negotiate."

ping some or all of the cases against the Marcos family in exchange for a share of the Marcos wealth.

The Marcos wealth is estimated between \$10 billion and \$100 bil-

Abcede disclosed that his first requirement for a deal was "an honest-to-goodness disclosure" of all the Marcos assets. With this accomplished, he said, the talks could proceed to the next phase.

"He seems to be amenable to the requirement. We can get a list probably next week. The negotiator said they would try (to come up with the list)," Abcede said.

After the PCGG receives the list, Abcede said, his office would verify the existence of its contents. Later, the two sides could negotiate how

much the government and the Mar-coses would get from the assets.

"After the disclosure and the verification, that is when we can talk of percentages. Definitely, the government would get a bigger share," Abcede said.

Then, Abcede said, the POGG would look into the status of the cases against the Marcoses "and see which of the cases can be dismissed or whether all cases will be dismissed.

After a draft agreement is produced, the PCGG will have to deliberate before submitting the agreement to the Sandiganbayan for approval and later to the Supreme Court. "There will be many steps because this is not an ordinary compromise agree-ment," Abcede said.

Rebel soldiers warn of new destabilization moves against gov't

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE THE MILITARY'S crackdown on renegade officers and soldiers, two fugitive Army officers have warned of more destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration in the coming days.

In an interview over ABS-CBN's "Probe" late Thursday night, Army 1Lt. Sonny Sarmiento warned their group would be "mak[ing their] presence felt in the coming days."

"We are coming out to show the public we junior officers are still here and we cannot be bought off. We are still continuing our fight," Sarmiento added.

It was Sarmiento's first interview since he and three other mutineers escaped from an Army detention facility last Jan. 17. The other escapees were Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and ILIs. Patricio Burnidang Jc and Lawrence San Juan, who was captured last Feb. 21 in Batangas.

"Probe" also played an audio-tape supposedly from Rabonza apologizing to the public for not joining the Edsa protest rallies last Feb. 24 and the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio last Feb. 26.

"We failed to join them due to certain events we did not expect," Rabonza said in Filipino. We assure them that in the coming days, we will continue the fight and coordinate with them. They can count on us we

are ready to lay down our lives for them," added Rabonza.

The military however, dismissed the threats. "We will face them head-on. We will not allow any armed group to terrorize and destabilize the government," said military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado. "They may be noisy but they don't have the muscle.

During the TV interview, Sarmiento also denied the claim by their former comrade, Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala that the mutineers were approached by communist representatives in December 2003, pointing out that Gambala and five other Magdalo leaders have been detained at the Intelligence Service. of the Armed Forces of the Philippines compound since the July 27, 2003 mutiny.

But Sarmiento did not reject the idea that they would link up with the military's sworn ene-Philippines-New People's Army

"We are open to talks [with: the left] as long as it is within the context of peace since even; the government is talking with them too," he said in Filipino: He did not elaborate.

Asked if their group had linked up with fugive ex-senator Grego-rio Honasan, Samiento said the ex-Army colonel who led several failed coup d'etat against the Aguino administration, was their "example and inspiration." With AFP report Arribinary.

SUBIC RAPE CASE ARRAIGNMENT SET

Angry DOJ chief scolds Olongapo prosecutor

By Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Tarra V. Quismundo in Manila

CITY—JUSTICE OLONGAPO Secretary Raul Gonzalez has threatened to file insubordination charges against city prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni for "openly disagreeing" with Gonzalez's decision to downgrade the charges filed against three of four US Marines accused of raping a Filipina in Subic last year.

Jalandoni said an irate Gonzalez called him by phone on Thursday to tell him of the insubordination charges.

"I told the secretary I had no intention of hurting him or disrespecting him. I was just voicing my opinion as to why I could not accept his resolution," Jalandoni told the INQUIRER by phone on Friday, two days after he resigned

from the newly created fivemember prosecution panel.

"Even the Supreme Court respects the prerogative of fiscals. We are the first line of defense in the criminal justice system. We can't deviate from how the law defines the accessories or principals in a crime," said the University of the Philippines-trained Jalandoni, who has spent at least 13 years as a prosecutor in Olongapo City.

He said Gonzalez should not have designated him to the panel because Gonzalez knew all along that he and Olongapo City Assistant Prosecutor Raymond Viray had found probable cause that Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis conspired with Lance Corporal Daniel Smith to commit rape.

The charges against Carpentier, Silkwood and Duplantes were

downgraded by Gonzalez to mere accessories, instead of principals.

In their Dec. 27, 2005 resolution after the preliminary investigation, the two prosecutors said Carpentier. as platoon leader, did not exercise his moral ascendancy over his men especially Smith to stop the alleged abuse inside a moving van.

"Similarly, the other respondents lent moral assistance to Smith not only by their mere presence inside the van but by cheering him to go on. Such encouragement must have emboldened Smith to continue raping the victim despite the latter's re-

Smith, 21, had told the US Navy's criminal investigation unit that what took place between him and the woman was "consensual sex."

But the woman, 22, a native of Zamboanga City, said in her Nov. 3 affidavit that she was forced into it. The four US Marines are expected to be arraigned next Priday at the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 139 for their alleged role in the rape.

Makati RTC Judge Benjamin Pozon vesterday set the arraignment of the accused servicemen on April 28.

During the arraignment, the accused would have to enter a plea of either "guilty" or "not guilty" to the charges.

"Considering the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement) provisions... and the constitutional right of the people to a speedy disposition of cases, the court hereby set the arraignment of the accused on April 28.... US military authorities and the US Embassy are hereby directed by this court to bring the accused before the court on the arraignment," Pozon ordered in open court yesterday morning, his first time to hear the case.



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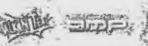


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DENR tops environmentalists' 'Lagpak' awards

By Blanche S. Rivera

AND THE AWARD FOR DEGRADING the environment goes to ... the De-

Mid. is in the circles well to make the transfer

ral Resources.

yesterday gave the top Lagpak or La- protect the environment and ensure

Executive cars at executive packages.

partment of Environment and Natu- pastangan at Gaham sa Kalilusan (Dis- sustainable use of the country's resources. respect for and rape of nature) award. in an ironic twist, environmentalists to the government agency mandated to

Two other government entities and four private firms also received Lagpak awards, a shame campaign that names "longtime polluters with a legacy of destroying the environ-

"The DENR gets top honors for dismally failing to fulfill its mandate. Instead of protecting the environment, it has instead become the problem through its promotion of environmentally damaging activities like mining and logging," Akbayan Rep. Risa Baraquel said in a press conference yesterday.

Baraquel said the DENR was suffering from "schizophrenia" because it had the conflicting mandate of promoting mining and conserving the environment.

Akhayan, Greenpeace, EcoWaste Coalition and Sagip Pasig Movement (SPM) picked this year's awardees. The Lagpak award is an expended version of the Lason Awards given by the SPM to polluters of the Pasig River every

Thank you

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, surprisingly, thanked the nongovernment organizations for the Lagnak award, because this was another reason to continue protecting the environment.

We have always considered nongovernment organizations, civil society groups, and local government units as the DENR's partners in its mission to conserve our natural resources," Reyes said in a statement.

"As Greenpeace itself is aware—because of its global activist work, the Philippines is like many other nations struggling to keep their environment safe and clean and we are all far from reaching the ideal," he said.

The National Power Corp. (Napocor) was also given the Lagnak award for causing the

biggest oil spill in the country's history, according to Greenpeace campaigner Jasper Inventor.

A barge by Napocor eccidentally dumped 300,000 liters of oil in the coasts of Semirara Island in Antique on Dec. 18 last year, killing mangroves and other marine life in the area.

Napocor said it was undertaking cleanup operations, which are almost finished.

"It's unfortunate that the Semirara oil spill had to happen. We're inviting those who gave us the award to see for themselves what we've done in the area," according to Napocor corporate communications consultant Dennis Gana.

Gana stressed that Napocor's plants were all compliant with the Clean Air Act and the international environmental laws and

"In fact, we don't just aim to comply, we always make sure that our operations are environment friendly," he said.

Cyanide fish

Australian mining company Lafayette Phils. Inc. was the first shame awardee from the mining sector. It was cited for two mine spills that caused cyanide contamination in the bodies of water near its mine site, in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, killing most of the fish.

The INQUIRER contacted Lafayette but its management declined to comment.

The DENR suspended the operation of Lafayette's gold processing plant and fined the firm P10.7 million for violating the Clean

Reyes said he would not allow Lafayette to resume operations until it has complied with all the requirements.

Monsanto was given the Lagpak award for being a "genetic polluter" insisting on planting genetically modified crops in prohibited areas, according to Greenpeace. With reports from Abigail L. Ho and Christine A. Gaylican

The signs of Calo's success are all over the

Caloocan, for instance, has been showing

visible signs of cleanliness since she visited

the place last year and conducted, in less than

two months, marathon training sessions cov-

Local officials consider their diminutive

At the time of her lectures, an association of

It was no secret that cleanliness was never

environmental lawyers was about to serve

doesn't apply it in her own home."

ering the city's 188 barangays.

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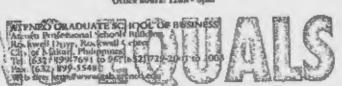
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Woman is RP's hero ...

been to more than 1,000 barangays in more than 15 provinces-from the Mr. Province and Hoops Sur to Sorsogon and Lanao del Norte-acting as a one-woman training crew or an ambassador of proper waste management, if ever there has been one.

She swears it's not an easy job, considering the lack of discipline, if not complete indifference, of not a few Filipinos.

"Patience is the key," Calo said in an interview at her office near Karipunan Avenue the other day. You have to explain the dangers confronting the environment in a simple and practical way."

Calo isn't the type who speaks the language of environment bureaucrats that barely communicates. Her best selling point is the simplicity of her language and her sincerity.

Experience is best teacher

With no formal training in waste management, she depends on her wealth of experience in garbage disposal to drive home her point during her training sessions.

A member of Mother Earth for five years now, Calo used to keep 15 pots in her yard where she would stuff biodegradable waste, including sanitary napking, and wait until they mix with the soil. The process usually took 20 days to a month, she said.

She got rid of the pots soon after Barangay Libis in Quezon City adopted her waste disposal techniques.

"It's important for trainers like me to first practice what we preach," she said. "Waste management isn't learned from someone who

to the Philippines. The ambassador's

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page sto-

ry-Palace orders implementation of ID

system"-stated that Interior Secretary

Ronaldo Puno had said the National

Census and Statistical Office could han-

dle the consolidation of the ID cards of

different agencies. Puno was actually re-

ferring to the National Statistics Office.

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page

A13-- "GMA is our of town on 'semi-pri-

vace' time"-misspelled the name of a

popular diving site in the country. The diving site is Tubbaraha Reef-not To-

IN THE ROUNDUP story that appeared on April 20, Page A13, SPO2 Ricardo Pi-

lar who shot himself after killing his boss

is still alive, contrary to the report. Pilar is in critical condition in a hospital in

THE STORY "Designer, pal found dead in car" on Page A23 of the Metro section in

yesterday's issue misstated that the vehicle

owned by Melchor Vergel de Dios is a sports

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Desky Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Museurdo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lock of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Larna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersative-cate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94. Atta: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8806 Local 342.

unility vehicle. Actually, it is a sedan.

name is Kristie Kenney not Kenny.

Corrections

battaha Reef.

Cauzyan City.

Caloocan City a "notice to sue" for its alleged failure to enforce RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Calo recalled.

trainer a sort of a savior.

Lawsuit preempted The notice was no longer served after the lawyers learned that the city government was already initiating a program," Calo said. She noted that neighboring Malabon, Parañaque, and Las Piñas were subsequently slapped

one of the city's commendable aspects.

Since last year, Calo said Caloocan had been steadily complying with RA 9003 and had lessened the volume of its garbage. That's because a huge chunk of its waste now goes to MRFs.

An MRR not an incinerator or a landfill, is

where the garbage should be, her group believes. it has a compost area where blodes waste, or waste that decomposes rapidly, such as food leftovers, is dumped until they naturally become part of the earth.

A second MRF section is a warehouse for nonbiodegradable or recyclable materials, like juice packs.

Money from garbage IN THE APRIL 20 issue, a photo caption on the front page misspelled the sur-name of the United States ambassador

Waste that can neither be turned into compost nor recycled is considered residual-candy and junk food wrappers, Styrofoam, noodle cups, etc. Calo said a temporary solution to get rid of

the residuals is to turn these wastes into concrete, much like a hollow block for construction. A permanent one is not to produce them at all.

An MRF can earn as much as P70,000 monthly by selling recyclable materials to junk shops and factories, she pointed out.

it is linerally squeezing money from garbage. That is why MRFs in Linamon, anao del Norte, are guarded like banks by beavily armed policemen, she said.

Where dirty mayors are

Like Caloocm, Linamon was once visited by the indefatigable Calo for a session on waste management. It didn't takes long before she got the support of the mayor and other local officials.

Having cleaned up his place and taught residents to maintain discipline, Mayor Cherlito Maras came up with a new political slogan: Only dumb mayors need dumpsites. Show me a dirty city/municipality and I will show you a dirty mayor."

The challenge is yet to be met in many parts of the country.

But no longer in barangays in Pulilio in Quezon, Pilar in Sorsogon, Ibaan in Batangas, Teresa in Rizal, Bonroc in Mt. Province, Alfonso Lista in Ifugao, Candon City in Ilocos Sur, Bolinao in Pangasinan, Sta. Barbara in Iloilo, and General Santos City.

A matter of education

They have Calo to thank for arousing their

environmental consciousness.

"We should not give up on each other," Calo said. Tust teach a person how and he will put his garbage where it should be. More importandy, he should see infrastructure, tangible programs from government leaders, all showing they are serious about solving the problem."

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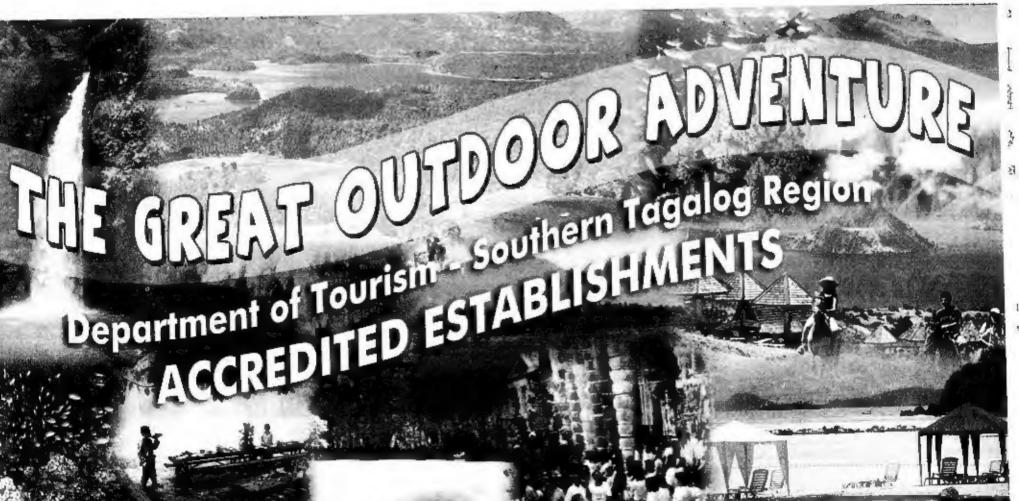
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MIMAROPA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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BIR official fails lifestyle check, charged

By Michelie V. Remo

A BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICIAL was charged with graft before the Office of the Ornbudsman yesterday for failing a lifestyle check.

Mama Bae Marzoc, director of the BIR's regional office in Corabato City, was alleged to have amassed wealth not commensurate with his income as a public servant.

Data from the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) showed that Marzoc owns 13 prime real estate properties, including three multimillion-peso homes, a five-door apartment building and other properties.

RIPS, a unit of the Department of Finance tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on government officials and employees, said Marzoc has no other source of income except his compensation as an employee of the BIR.

One of the houses, located in Bagua, Cota-

One of the houses, located in Bagua, Cotabato City, was estimated at P5 million. Another house in Marawi City was pegged at P4 million. He also owns another expensive home in Barrio Kakar, Cotabato City.

Barrio Kakar, Cotabato City.

Officials from RIPS estimated Marzoc's networth at P15 million to P20 million. He declared only P2.58 million in his latest statement of assets, liabilities and networth (SALN).

Sandigan orders arrest of Camarines Norte gov

By Nelson E. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY ORDERED the arrest of Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus O. Typoco Jr. due to a graft charge filed last February against him by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval, antigraft court's Second Division chair, signed the arrest warrant. He set Typoco's bail bond at P30,000.

Typoco was charged with graft following a complaint filed by Ildefonso Macaraig who claimed that the governor refused to settle his obligations amounting to P15 million with

the businessman's firm.

Records showed that Macaraig's firm,
Crown IBM Trading, delivered 7,219 woodand-steel armchains and different sets of gardening tools to the provincial government in
December 2001. Macaraig said the delivery
was covered by a contract he signed with the
provincial government in 2001.

Prosecutors found prima facie basis to indict Typoco noting that the accused committed undue injury against the complainant by

repeatedly ignoring demands for payment.

Copies of the arrest warrant were sent to the Daet station commander of the Philippine National Police, the PNP provincial commander of Camarines Norte and the National Bureau of investigation regional director for the Bicol provinces.



HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC. MOVES TO ITS NEW HOME



April 17, 2006 was a red letter day for Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI), when it moved to its new factory at the First Philippine Industrial Park at Tanauan City, Batangas. This is another milestone in the company's colorful history. The factory was formally opened by its President and General Manager, MR. KAZUHIKO IKEZOE followed by a soft blessing officiated by 3 catholic priests.

A formal inauguration is set sometime in July 2006.

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The supplication of the state o Senate to resume probe of Garci, other scandals

From page Af

When regular session resumes next month, they want the House to probe the role of the Department of Interior and Local Government in the proposed Charter change, as well as demand the submission to Congress of the so-called Mayuga report on the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scan-

"This is one road-block removed from the smooth functioning of Congress in the performance of its legislative and oversight functions," he said.

President Arroyo issued EO 464 on the day that then Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan restified on election cheating in Mindanso.

Their defiance of the presidential order not to testify prompted the military top brass to initiate proceedings court-martial against them.

Like a shot in the arm for senators, the Supreme Court voted to uphold the right of Congress to compel executive officials to appear at its inquiries. It voided the EO's provision requiring these officials, including generals and flag officers of the Armed Porces, and police officials from chief superintendent and up, to secure prior consent from Ms Arroyo.

Biazon hinted that the generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes as well as Sgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Porces would be among those who could be invited.

They will have their day in the hearings," he said.

It was Doble who supposedly

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peddied the tapes purportedly containing wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on how to rig the results of the 2004 election.

Drilon: No escape

"We will revive the committee of the whole hearings once the (high court) decision becomes final," Drilon said in a phone interview. Chaired by Drilon, the committee of the whole railed off its inquiry after only one hearing on Sept. 29 last year, following a snub by several government officials, who invoked EO

Once convened again, the committee of the whole intends to summon all transport officials from the executive department and government-owned corporations and companies who had skipped its lone hearing on the NorthRail project in according September, Drilon.

The officials who were called previously but decided not to appear because of BO 464 will be invited again. They can no longer invoke BO 464," he

Drilon specifically singled out Jose Cortes Jr., president of the North Luxon Railway Corp. (NorthRail).

No lion's den

THE STATE OF THE S

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Monetary Board member Juanita Amatong, Narciso Abaya of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Jose Ma. Sarasola II of the Philippine National Railways were also no-shows.

The UP Law Center said in a

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study that the contract between ted that the ruling was a "great Congress," he said. NorthRail and the China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. Group to build a 32-km railway north of Manila might be void because it skirted "competitive public bldding," among other supposed viola-

Sen. Ralph Recto squelched Malacanang officials' fears that the ruling would pave the way for a "Senate inquisition."

The fear that Cabinet men will be summoned to the Senate to be bamboozled is baseless." he said. "The scenario being painted by the Palace that senators wait in ambush for their men is without basis. The chamber's no lion's den."

Political witch-hunt

In the House, two senior adlawmakers ministration Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, said Ms Arroyo could not be impeached for issuing EO 464 since it was only partially voided by the Supreme Court,

witch-hunts." He said the court ruling would surely embolden anti-Arroyo lawmakers "who are already gearing up on how to give the Arroyo administration a

setback" to the administration.

dora's box that will be exploited

to the hilt by opposition solous

in the Senate and the House,"

be said. "I am worried (about)

this development as it will ag-

gravate present concerns we

have, like the high oil prices in

the world market and the nega-

Echoing Malacanang's con-

cern, Salapuddin expressed ap-

prehension that this might sig-

nal an "open season for political

tive image we have abroad."

congressional inquiries." The people are already sick and tired of too much politicking in our country. Our senators might as well focus on the national budget that will fund the government development agenda and the numerous bills from the House since there are only a few months left in the 13th

headache, using the process of

Calls for resignation It will open the lid of a Pan-

The House minority, for its art, asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Press Secretary Ignacio Sunye and all those who took part in drafting the EO to resign for placing the President in an embarrasting situation.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said that those responsible for "authoring, sponsoring and condoning the EO should bow down in shame and apologize to the Filipino people."

He said government lawyers directly involved in drafting the EO, from the secretary of justice and presidential chief legal counsel down to the presidential spokesperson, "should resign for giving the President wrong and terrible advice that induced her to issue an unconstitutional edict."

He said Ms Arroyo, "as an act of contrition, should ax those officials for embarrassing her and putting her on the edge of an impeachable offense."

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas,

Cebu City) said Congress should not be used as a tool for political wrangling with the

Don't bully guests

"Let's respect the rights of every government official asked to face an investigation, Legislators are supposed to be honorable officials, thus, basic courtesy must dictate our actions in and out of the chamber. There are many ways of skinning the cat, so we shouldn't bully our invited guests," he said.

House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo filed a resolution directing the House committee on good government to investigate the role of the DILG in gathering signatures for the people's initiative" to amend the Constitution.

Rep. Teodoro Casiño, for his part, filed House Resolution No. 1128 asking Congress to require the submission of the complete and unaltered" Mayuga report on allegations of involvement of some military officers in alleged poll cheat-

But Salapuddin also admit-SC ruling: Good fences make good neighbors

From page A1

tive and legislative branches had been there all along. But one of the two either could not see the fence or refused to honor it.

What the Court has done is tell the two that the fence has been faid out in the Constitution and to force them to see where the fence lies. In the process, while no new doctrine was laid down, greater clarity has been achieved. What remains is for the two branches to honor the division.

In a not surprisingly unanimous disquisition the Court merely revisited Sections 21 and 22 of Article VI and clarified the meaning and scope of "executive privilege."

Section 21 simply says "The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected."

Inquiry necessary

This provision which authorizes Congress to conduct investigations "in aid of legislation" did not exist in the 1935 Constitution. But even then it was recognized as a necessary adjunct to the power

As a 1950 decision said, "the power of inquiry-with process to enforce it-is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function. A legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change ..."

EO 464 blanket gag

And since executive officers are often in the best position to supply the needed information, Congress has the power to summon even department heads. The President may not block such summons. Thus the blanket gag

imposed on executive officers by EO 464 was declared unconstitutional.

However, the Court also made clear that, should Congress abuse its power, those affected may seek remedy from the Court.

Section 21 is different from Section 22 which says: "The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of elther House, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments ... When the security of the State or the public interest so requires and the President so states in writing, the appearance shall be conducted in executive

To my recollection, this is the first time that the Court has had occasion to explain the meaning of the provision.

Colonial times

A similar provision, however, was already found in the Administrative Code of colonial times. The earlier provision said: The Secretaries may be called, and shall be entitled to be heard, by either of the two Houses of the Legislature, for the purpose of reporting on matters pertaining to their Departments, unless the public interest shall require otherwise and the Goverpor-General shall so state in writing."

The 1973 Constitution, for its part had a provision on a "question hour," a feature of a parliamentary system of government designed to serve not so much as an aid to legislation but as an instrument for keeping administration in line. Thus the prime minister and Cabinet members could be "required to appear and answer questions and interpellations" to give an account of their stewardship.

The 1986 Constitutional Commission, however, found the "question hour" inconsistent with a presidential form of government. Thus, we have the present provision. It makes the appearance of department heads subject

to the consent of the President. Although the Court decision calls this exercise a "question hour," it does so only by analogy with its counterpart in parliamentary practice,

Only for department heads

What is also important to note is that Section 22 applies only to "department heads" and not also to executive officials lower in rank. But the Court also clarified that when the hearing is being conducted under Section 21, even department beads may be compulsorily summoned.

The conclusion from all this is that, in every case, it is necessary to determine whether a hearing is being conducted under Section 21 or under Section 22 - which may not always

Finally, the Court clarified the meaning and scope of executive privilege. As the Court noted, however, the concept is not new in this jurisdiction. But it is more amply discussed in American jurisprudence.

Withhold information

Briefly and in simplest terms, it is the power of the President to withhold certain types of information from the public, from the courts, and from Congress. The first thing to note about it is that it is a privilege which can be asserted only by the President or by one authorized by the President, Secandly, it is not just one privilege but a cluster of privileges covering different subject matters. It can cover crucial military or diplomatic objectives, the identity of persons who supply information of violations of law, or internal deliberations within the executive office.

However, when asserted, it must be asecific terms and, must imporserred in sp randy, the Court is the ultimate judge as to whether the privilege applies.

It is gratifying to note that Malacanaug has announced it will honor the Court decision. Not that it really has much choice.

SC chief: The only winner is justice

congressional inquiries.

Voting 14-0, the high court upheld the inherent right of Congress to compel the appearance of executive officials in congressional inquiries even as it stressed that the issue involving EO 464 did not only pertain to the Congress' right to know, but the people's right to participate in government af-

Possible appeal

Panganiban declined to talk about the possible impact of the court's ruling on pending legislative investigations, particularly in the Senate. (Related story on this page)

I can't comment on that because it is still subjudice because the contending parties still have 15 days to file their motion for reconsideration," he said.

The Office of the Solicitor General conceded it might not be realistic to expect the high court to reverse itself but it still left open the possibility that it would file a motion for reconsideration.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's EO 464 barred officials of the executive department, as well as the military and police, from appearing in congressional hearings without her permission.

But the court, in its decision, also ruled that the President was within her right to give prior consent to executive officials appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Repre-

sentatives.

A second look "Although we know it would be hard to make them reconsider their votes, we are

studying it to see if there are points that we not independent." can use to bring to the Supreme Court and ask them to effect a second view and re-study," said Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura, who has 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration.

There could be aspects in the decision where the Court could change its mind, but not overthrow the entire decision," Nachura added.

Nachura said that his office was looking at the possibility of seeking re-examination of certain points in the decision, "including when and how executive privilege may be igvoked."

Executive privilege

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said what was important was that the high court recognized the principle of executive privilege and that in legislative inquiries this could be invoked "under certain circumstances."

"From the start, the purpose of BO 464 was mainly to uphold the honor and dignity of the executive branch and Cabinet members against unwarranted insult and injury inflicted by Congressional inquiries," Bunye said in a statement. "There was never an intent to curb the public's right to know."

Burrye said the Palace was also thankful that the Supreme Court had set the parameters "under which inquiries in aid of legislation can no longer be abused and turned into inquirles in aid of libel, power play, grandstanding or destabilization."

An independent court

Bunye also said the decision showed the independence of the Supreme Court and thus "belies allegations that the Supreme Court, especially since many of them were appointed by the President, is

"In some instances, we were sustained. In some instances, we were turned down ... We

we win some, we lose some," Bunye said. The Philippine National Police appeared to have readily acceded to the high court

In a statement, the PNP said it "upholds (the) decision of the high tribunal declaring EO 464 unconstitutional."

But it added: "It is hoped that such jurisprudence will establish norms that will insure the attainment of the objective of any legislative investigation without harassing or disrespecting those whom it may invite or summon to appear before it."

Truth blocked?

The alleged harassment of government officials by lawmakers was one of the reasons cited by Malacahang when it Issued EO 464 last year.

The EO effectively blocked efforts by lawmakers to ferret out the truth behind scandals rocking the Arroyo presidency, including her alleged role in rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election and the supposed involvement of her officials in a P728-million fertilizer fund scam, the controversial NorthRail project and other alleged irregularities.

We are bound by professional duty to respect the ruling of the Supreme Court although we have yet to receive a copy of the decision," said the PNP spokesperson, Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Pagdilao also said the PNP would still be guided by "prescribed administrative procedures" and would wait for further guide-

lines from Malacahang. With reports from Chrisitus O. Avendaño, Luige A. del Puer-

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Napolcom employee arrested for extortion

POLICE OFFICERS arrested this week a 56-year-old employee of the National Police Commission after she was allegedly caught extorting cash from a widow claiming her husband's pension.

Agents of the Criminal investigation and Detection Group said Carmen Reboredo, a fiscal examiner of Napolcom, faces graft and corruption charges.

They said Reboredo demanded P9,000 from Charito Perez Reyes, who was trying to claim the pension of her husband Armando, an officer of the Traffic Management Group who died in a motorcycle accident five years ago.

Supt. Nelson Yabut, the officer assigned to the case, said the Napolcom employee had already demanded and received P5,000 from the widow in exchange for the immediare release of the pension money. He said Reves deposited the money in Reboredo's АТМ ассочли.

check When a amounting to about P200,000 was about to be released, Reboredo allegedly asked for an additional P9,000. Reyes sought the help of Napolcom Commissioner Miguel Coronel, who, in turn, directed the police to take action, the CIDG said.

Napolcom, chaired by Interior Secretary Ronaldo "Ronnie" Puno, has regulatory powers over the 115,000-strong Philippine National Police. Luige A. del Puerto

Court dismisses illegal detention raps vs Ong, Cortez

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI COURT DISMISSED on Thursday serious illegal detention charges that the justice department filed against former top NBI official Samuel Ong, actor and opposition figure Rez Cortez, and two other co-accused for "detaining" an intelligence agent inside San Carlos Seminary in June last year.

In his order, Makari Regional Trial Court Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon dismissed the criminal charges the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed against the accused for holding T/Sgt. Vidal Doble inside the seminary.

'After personally evaluating the [DOJ] resolution and the evidence...this court finds no probable cause for the issuance of warrant of arrests against the accused," Pozon said in his order.

Doble was an agent of the In-

Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and allegedly had a hand in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping operations during the 2004 elections.

He stayed with Ong inside the seminary where the former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director sought sanctuary after announcing he had in his possession "the mother of all tapes," the purported proof that the administration rigged the May 2004 elections

Ong has gone into hiding.

In dismissing the charges, Pozon ruled that the crime of serious illegal detention was not committed.

Pozon cited Doble's affidavit, which showed that he stayed in the seminary from June 10 to June 13, 2005.

Under the law, the crime of se-

telligence Service of the Armed rious illegal detention could only be filed by a person held against his will for more than three days.

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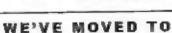
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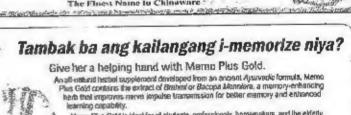
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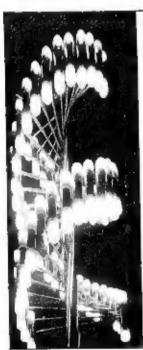
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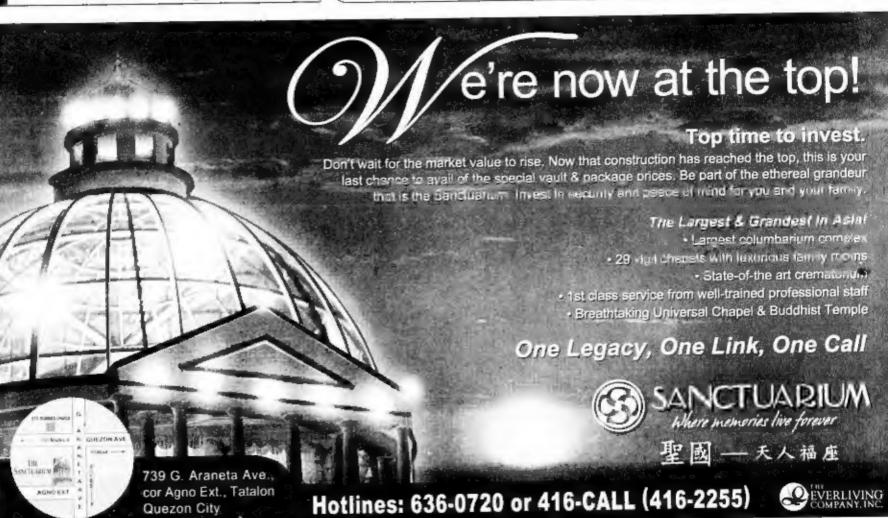
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Philip Salvador convicted of estafa

From page Al and thus ordered the latter's ac-

Holding on to wife's hand

Throughout the promuigation, which lasted about an hour and a half yesterday morning, Salvador held on tightly to his wife's hand.

Before the hearing started, he could be heard humming religious songs to himself and reading passages from the Bible that he had brought with him.

When the judge ordered him to stand, Salvador tucked the Bible under his right arm. It slipped and fell to the floor a few minutes into the clerk of court's reading of the decision.

Salvador and his wife remained composed throughout the session, but both seemed to be holding back tears after the verdict was announced.

"There were a lot of errors, I never admitted that I received \$100,000 from her [Decena]. But I am happy that my brother was acquitted," Salvador told re-

"I don't feel angry at all. We all go through life's storms, All I know is that the Lord is with me always. This is not yet finished. I

lift this all up to God," he said. In her compleint, Decena accused Salvador and his brother of prodding her to invest in a remittance company in 2001. At the time she said she was in a relationship with Salvador.

He allegedly promised Decena that he would take care of marketing and promoting the company's services, using his popularity among the Filipino workers in Hong Kong.

However, Decena was to find out later that the money she had given Salvador in May 2002 to start the business was used for other purposes.

Salvador allegedly confessed to her that he used the money to pay obligations and loans which Salvador had incurred when he ran for vice mayor of Mandaluyong in the 2001 elections.

Selvador's lawyer, Roberto Abad, said they would file a mo-

tion for reconsideration.

"The court might reconsider lts decision. We will point out the discrepancies in the ovidence." Ahad said.

Abad said they would take the appeal all the way to the Supreme Court if the verdict is not reversed at the Court of Appeals.

The actor remains free while the appeals process goes on and until the court decision is finally

With 3 daughters

Decera, who came to the hear-ing with her three daughters, cried upon hearing the decision. She told reporters that she was happy with Guray's decision because it proved that she was telling the truth.

"My past flashed before my eyes: How I loved him, how I trusted him and how he tricked ns..." she said.

When I arrived at the court, I was ready to face whatever the judge's decision was. I feel no regret that he will be jailed. All 1 can say is he deserves it," Dece-

Her lawyer, Rizal Balbin, Is certain that the verdict will be up-

"He was already convicted, it will be difficult to reverse the decision. We have presented solid evidence for his conviction," added Balbin.

2 other cases

Vesterday's decision concerned only one of the three cases of estafa that Decena brought against the Salvador brothers.

In another case brought before the Las Pifias court, Decena claimed that she was deceived by the brothers into investing P1.2 million for a jeepney operation business that Ramon Salvador was to have managed. The case was dismissed in June 2005 and is now on appeal.

In the very first case that Decena filed against Salvador, Decena demanded payment of P15 mil-lion that Salvador allegedly borrowed from her in 2003. The case is still ongoing at the Makati



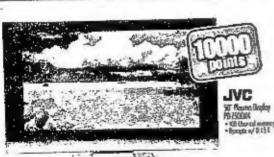
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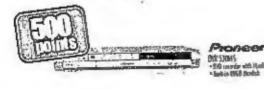
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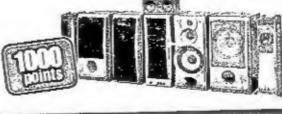
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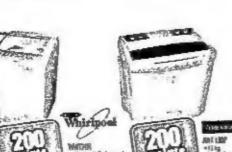














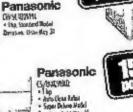














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RP, Malaysia, Indonesia urged to dismantle JI terror camps

MACIAN ISLAND—THE PHILIPPINES, Malaysis and Indonesia must act jointly against the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (Ji) to dismantie its camps and simit its movements, a security expert said yesterday.

Rohan Gunaratna, head of the political violence and terrorism center at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said Indonesia must ban JI as an organization and oppose moves to free the group's spiritual leader, Abi, Bakar Bashir, in June.

"Everything must be done to make sure that he is not released." Gunaratna told reporters on the sidelines of a counter-terrorism forum in Cebu.

"It has gamed very significant strength because it is now working with so many other groups in Indonesia. The Indonesian government must be encouraged to ban JI," he said.

"It is still a legal organization in Indonesia. If must be crimmalized," he added.

He warned that Ji, al Qaida's franchise in Southeast Asia, continued to pose a serious threat despite the airests of serior leaders such as Bashir and

Isamuddin Riduan, alias Hambali.

Noordin Mohammad Top, a Malaysian suspected of masterminding bombings on the Indonesian holiday island of Bau last year, is believed to have taken over JFs operations, leadership.

Citing intelligence reports, Gunaratna said, II had training camps in Indonesia and the Philippines, producing 400 to 500 potential terrorists every year.

Gunaratha, who has written books on al Qaida and Jl, said Southeast As an states—particularly the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia—must cooperate more to defeat terrorism.

Those anks should include common data bases, an exchange of personnel and joint training and operations, he said, describing these activities as "a new format for fighting terrorism."

The United States, Australia and Europe should support the region's counter-terrorism efforts because they have the resources and intelligence networks to check movements of people and funds, Gunaratha said.

There are also considerable

There are also considerable amounts of money still coming from the Middle East to fund terrorist artacks

in Southeast Asia," he said, echoing concerns raised by other experts from

60 countries attending the forum.

Ellen Margrethe Loj, head of the UN
Security Council's counter-terrorism
committee, on Thursday urged Southeast Asian states to choke off international funding to stop bomb attacks.

Gunaratna said a small portion of millions of dollars in private funds for religious and rehef groups for development projects in poor Muslim communities in the region were diverted to "hatred and violence." He said he believed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines, continued to shelter one of two factions of Ji hiding in Mindanao despite being in peace talks with Manifa.

The other JI faction, led by Dumatin and Umar Patek, were working with the smaller but more radical Abu Sayyaf group based in Jolo. "The MillF has constantly lied that

"The Milf has constantly hed that it is not harboring JI," Gunaratha said "Milf leaders must be held accountable for the presence of JI in the southern Philippines."

Reuters

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High court orders transfer of Rizal Alih trial to QC

SECURITY CONCERNS PROMPTED THE Supreme Court yesterday to order the transfer of the murder trial of Rizal Alih from Zamboanga City to Quezon City.

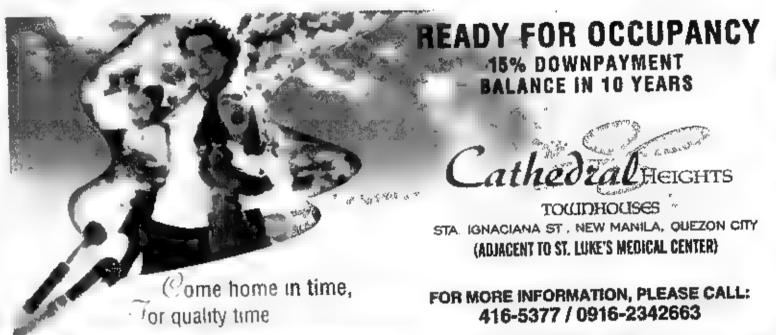
The high court granted the urgent petition filed by Zamboanga City Mayor Calso L. Lobregat on Jan. 24 seeking the transfer of Alih's trial from Zamboanga to any court in Metro Manita

Alih, a former policeman, stands accused of killing 21 people, including Bing Gen. Eduardo Batalia and Coi. Romeo Abendan, during a hostage-taking includent in the Philippine Constabulary Camp in Cawa Cawa, Zamboanga City, on Jan 5, 1989

and intense bombardment by government forces, Aih escaped and fied to

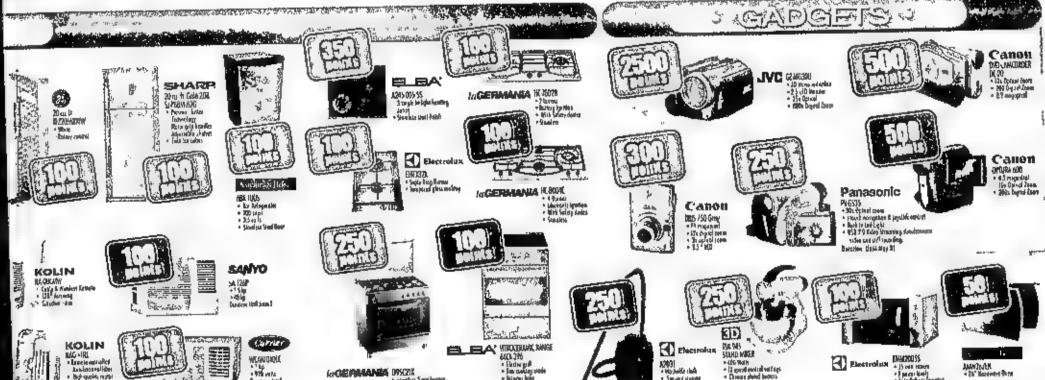
In 1994, Alih was arrested in Malaysia for killing a Marine. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. He was deported to the Philippines last January.

Armend N. Nocum









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Limits on power

E OFTEN HEAR THAT TOO MUCH ATTENTION is paid to rights and not obligations. This perennial concern is a valid one, and directly addresses the question of what makes a good citizen

We do not, however, hear enough about how little attention is paid by officials to the other side of the democratic com. If the citizenry should think as much of its

obligations as it does its rights, then offi-EDITORIAL cialdom should think more about how one of the highest virtues for those in

power is to recognize that might does not always make right.

Humility is hardly ever a defining characteristic of politicians. They are, after all, in a profession which requires that they step forward and proclaim to the people that they deserve to be followed and put in power. However, the politician who is capable of demonstrating genuine humility is not only a rare person, but one who is poised to be a statesman

We have often heard individuals like Christian Monsod insist that inside every politician lies a statesman. The late Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma put it similarly: no one is beyond redemption. What they believe is not naïve; it is the often expressed wish of generations of Filipinos, And It can be said that there have been times when Filipino politicians have shown themselves capable of statesmanship-if not consistently, then from time to time and at

crucial times in our nation's history. It is said that adversity can make an individual become great, just as it can reduce a person to bitterness and destructive anger. Facing seemingly insurmountable challenges and then overcoming them can help transform a politician into a visionary who outlines a path for moral and political regeneration for a people. Benigno Aquino Jr. was a perfect example of this. Salvador H. Laurel, when he endured what is unendurable for a politician-the subordination of his personal ambition to the nation's interest-by agreeing to be the running mate of Corazon Aquino instead of insisting on being the opposition standard bearer.

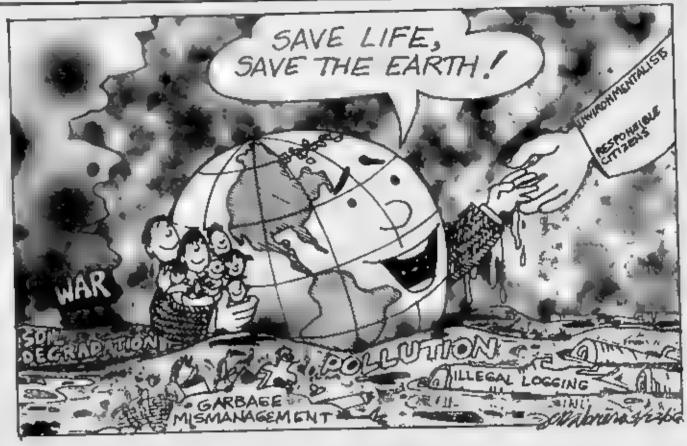
Since the present political crisis began, President Macapagal-Arroyo has certainly demonstrated grit and determination. She has also shown a growing confidence in herself that comes too uncomfortably close to arrogance. While to her and to those who serve her, everything she has done can be justified by the ferocity of the opposition to her, the country has paused and asked, far too often than should be the case, whether her ends truly justify her

She will not appreciate it, but we must return to the words of former President Corazon Aquino who said democracy is best restored through the ways of democracy. Since the President insists she is defending democracy, we ask. Is she defending it by the ways of democracy? If, over the past two decades since democracy was restored, it has been defended always by rejecting tools for the preservation of power that Ferdinand Marcos used, can the President truly say she has remained faithful to that post-Edsa democratic tradition?

We often hear her advisers say that the President is not authoritarian because the country has not seen any overtly authoritarian acts on the part of the state. They say no journalists are actually in jail, and there has been no repression on the scale of 1972. That is a selective and selfserving insistence on the part of those who are conscious that they cannot afford to ape Marcos but who have no philosophical disagreement with the Marcosian view that power must be held on to at all costs.

No journalists are being jailed en masse, but they are being liquidated on a sustained and regular basis. Congress is still in existence, but the effort is underway to transform it into something much more politically manageable. Its mandate to exercise oversight over the actions of the Executive has been impeded by executive issuances unprecedented both in their form and the manner in which they have been enforced. All of which do not inspire confidence.

What limits on power does the President set for herself? Hardly any, And that is why she has to be constantly cautioned by the media, including foreign ones like The New York Times, and held back by the Supreme Court, like it did the other day by striking down Executive Order No. 464.



Dual citizenship

NATIONALITY IS THE TIE THAT BINDS AN individual to his country, from which he can claim protection and whose laws he is obliged to obey, it is the status through which he may be represented by his state in its dealings with other states in the family of nations.

The term is often used interchangeably with citizenship, which, however, is more internal than international in its application. It has a limited scope and may apply to certain members of the state and not to the rest of the people who owe it allegiance. Thus, during the American regime in this country, Filipinos and Americans were both considered nationals of the United States vis-a-vis other states, but Filipinos were not entitled to certain rights of American citizens like the right to vote or run for public office in their country.

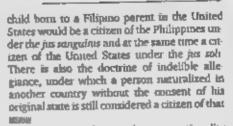
We were then covered by a different set of laws that, unless otherwise provided, were not also applicable to American citizens or their other colonies. The same relationship was true of the subject, the monarchial equivalent of the democratic citizen, like the Malayans and the South Africans when they were under the sovereignty of the British Empire. They were governed under their respective municipal laws and not the mutucipal law of England.

Nationality may be acquired by birth or by naturalization. An individual acquires the nationality of the place where he is born jure soli or the nationality of his parents jure sunguines Naturalization, on the other hand, is a formal process by which a foreigner acquires, voluntarily or by operation of law, the nationality of

A person usually has only one nationality but there are times when he may find himself owing allegiance to more than one country because of the concurrent application to him of Filipinos tray re-acquire their Philippine their separate cauzenship laws. For example, a penship by simply taking the prescribed oath of er pastures of his adopted land

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



The person with more than one nationality will usually not change that exceptional status and prefer instead to enjoy the best of both worlds, the one usually for emotional reasons and the other for convenience

According to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, there are close to 8 million Filipinos who, having acquired a new nationality abroad, are still devoted to the land they have abandoned. But although they still pine for their former country, they nevertheless are reluctant to leave their adopted country to which they have also become attached. They long, in short, to become Pilipinos again while still remaining foreigners.

Affected by their sentimentality, Congress now allows dual citizenship and permits natucal-born Filipinos to enjoy the rights they used to have in this country before they acquired a new citizenship abroad. Under Rep. Act 9225, which became effective in 2003, such former

allegiance to the Philippines. Natural-born Filipinos who are naturalized in other countries after the effectivity of the law shall retain their Philippine citizenship, subject to the same conditions prescribed for its re-acquisition. The unmarried minor children of those who re-acquire Philippine citizenship will also be considered citizens of the Philippines

Significantly, the required eath of allegiance does not contain the usual renunciation of allegiance to any and all other states, thereby imphedly allowing continued allegiance to the adopted state. The usual absolute renunciation is, however, required from those seeking public elective office or appointed to public of fice in the Philippines, which would make them citizens exclusively of this country again. Exercise of the right of suffrage or to practice a profession is subject to the usual statutory re-

Enjoyment of the privileges offered by the law is contingent on the adopted state permitting its beneficiaries to remain its citizens notwithstanding their reacquisition or retention of Philippine citizenship. If the foreign state considers their taking advantage of Rep. Act No. 9225 as cause for the forfeiture of their naturalized citizenship, their status as dual citizens will end

Former Filipinos who have been or will be naturalized in another country will have no problem if such country will not mind sharing their affection with the Philippines. By its Rep. Act No. 9225, our country has manifested its broad-mindedness on the matter, but other countries may feel otherwise and demand total devotion from its citizens, including the naturalized foreigner. The naturalized Fitipino must then make a crucial choice between the country he has left but still loves and the green-

A slap on the wrist

THE SUPREME COURT, ACCORDING TO DATA published in the NSCB's 2005 Philippine Statiscical Yearbook, has a case outflow (defined as the summarion of cases decided/resolved, cases archived, cases transferred to other salas/courts, and cases with proceedings suspended during the reference period) that reached 5,691 in 2004. This is about 120 cases a week over a 48-week year Most of these, I am given to understand, are either decisions or resolutions, so that's a lot of work

It would be interesping to find out how many of these could be considered of national significance, but there is no doubt that two of the decisions handed down this week fit that description: one declaring a presidential muzzle order on her subordinates unconstitutional and the other declaring another president all order for a national ID system for goverrorent employees constitutional. Unfortunately, I have not accessed either of these decisions, but they should make for interesting

What I did get to read, however, is a Supreme Court en banc résolution, dated March 28, 2006, on a case that involves the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), the Comelec and the Information Technology Poundation of the Philippines (ITYP). This column traced the time-line of that case some time last month, but a short summary would not be

In late 2003, the ITFP asked the Court to invalidate the contract for the supply of automated counting machines that the Comelec had entered into with MPei. The ITFP's petition was granted on Jan. 13, 2004, with the Court ordering the OMB to "determine the criminal liability, if any, of the public officials involved in the said contract." The next day, the OMB (under Simenn Marcelo) ordered the Field Investigation Office (FIO) to conduct an in-depth investigation of the alleged anomalies, with the resident ombudsman for the Cometer also conducting an intial investigation. By Oct. 6, 2004, the FIO had finished its work and submitted to the

GET REAL Solita Collas-Monsod

deputy ombudsman for Luzon (Marcelo had inhibited himself) its findings, which in essence found that the election commissioners involved had criminal liability and should be charged. A preliminary investigation was the next step

The case against the commissioners was deemed submitted on Dec. 23, 2004, the date when they filed with the OMB their joint com-

In December 2005, the ITPP went to the Supreme Court again to complain about the slowness of the OMB. It followed this up with supplemental complaint in January this year, asking the Court to declare the OMB in enotempt of court for its failure to comply with the Court's January 2004 directive Last Feb. 14, the Court issued a resolution directmg the OMB to show cause why it should not be held in contempt, and to manifest compuance with its directive

With great alacrity on Feb. 24 (see how fast it can work when it wants to?), the OMB gave a 44-page reply, wherein it explained why it should not be held in contempt. The Court's directive was actually just a "referral," the OMB contended, and as a constitutionally independent body, it "had so duty to render reports" to the Court, Moreover, it claimed that the Court's Jan. 13, 2004 decision did not specifically order it to make such reports. The OMB comment, however, listed all the activities that it had undertaken in regard to the case, since the Court issued the directive cum-referral in January 2004. But there was one glaring omission: nowhere in those pages did it say, after more than two years of factfinding and investigation, whether or not it

was able to determine criminal Lability on the part of public officials involved in the invalidared contract

The Court's March 28 en banc resolution was in response to this OMB opus. It made mincement of the OMB's reasoning, showing where it was flawed and concluding that there Is no excuse for disregarding or disobeying an order of this Court " The Court said it was "sternly reminding" the OMB that it would not hesitate to exercise its power of contempt against anyone (including the OMB) who failed to observe due respect for its directives. Then it pointed out that it was the constitutionally mandated duty of the OMB to "act promptly on complaints. and in appropriate cases, notify the complainants of the action taken and the result thereof," it stressed that its January 2004 decision was a directive, not a referral and expressed "sur prise" over the "hesitation and quibbling" of the OMB, "considering that even without that express directive," the OMB should have taken it upon itself to conduct an investigation *топ*ь ргоргю

After all that huffing and puffing, one would have expected the Court to blow the OMB house down, by declaring it in contempt (with the appropriate punishment), and giv ing it a final deadline, after more than two years, to comply with its order to determine the Comelec officials' criminal liability. But no, the Court's resolution merely "NOTED" the comment of the OMB. And "DIRECTED" it (caps theirs), under pain of contempt (again!) to report "once every three months" the steps it has taken to determine the criminal hability of public officials, starting on or before June 30, 2006 "until the matter is finaily disposed of."

in other words, it said "maughty, naughty" to the OMB, gave it a slap on the wrist and gave it an implicit nod to disregard its constirutional obligation to act promptly, so long as it gave reports every three months.

The mountain labored, and brought forth a

OPINION

Hearings in aid of legislation

THERE IS A REASON TO CELEBRATE THE CONtinued independence of the judiciary as it struck down certain provisions of EO 464 as unconstitutional and curtailing the people's right to information. The unanimous ruling makes it most convincing. What impressed me most, however, was the Court's attempt to strike a balance between the executive and legislative branches as it sought to point out each branch's responsibility. Predictably, media accounts seemed to gloss over this attempt at balance, but this is understandable. The media perceive themselves to have suffered from recent administration moves to restrict various freedoms.

The attempt at balance can be gleaned from the Court's ruling that Congress may compel executive officials to appear in bearings aid of legislation," while restricting "executive privilege" to the President, who has to state the reasons for invoking it. Lesser officials cannot invoke it. At the same time, the Court also said the Palace can ban officials from appearing at congressional inquiries, such as the question bour," that are perceived to be unrelated to pending legislation. But this is the crux of the matter just what constitutes "in aid of legislation"? This term is perhaps the most abused, next to "integraty."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was quick to ap-peal to the ecstatic senators not to use the ruling as a "hoense" to employ their powers of inquiry to harass public officials or to push a particular political agenda, as we have seen in the past." The record of Congress, particularly the Senate, in political harassment has not been admirable In fact, if EO 464 has given rise to criticisms about the Palace's attempt to gag officials on irregularities, the hearings have also been increasingly seen as a gross abuse of the senators' investigative powers, an impeachment all over again but in another guise.

Last week, this column cited how the investigation into the Gard tapes has dragged on in the Senate defense committee through 11 hearings in the past year, but no report has

POLITICAL TIDEITS Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

been issued by the committee till now. Even more remote is the prospect of legislation springing from it, especially with mid-term elections due in 2007. I also recall how, at the height of investigations into alleged justenz activities of the First Family, former Senate President Jovito Salonga criticized the current practice in Congress of letting just anyone appear at the hearings, without even a sem-blance of screening. He recalled that when he served as committee chair of semsational House bearings, he made sure a legal staff first screened prospective witnesses to determine the basis for their appearance.

Luckily the magistrates seem aware of this abuse, as they warned Congress that the power of legislative inquiry may be broad but not unlimit-ed. The Court asked Congress to indicate in its invitation what possible starute prompts the need for the inquiry, in addition to stating the subject and questions arising from it. But considering how greatly abused the powers of inquiry have been, I would have wanted the Court to be more explicit about ways to curb this abuse.

If our political system still harches like a way-ward train, our economy seems to be slowly but surely moving along. The strength of the peac becomes more significant in the light of skyrocketing oil prices. Last February, our exports amounted to \$3.3 billion, a 9.8 percent gain from last year. The outsourcing business, which allows us to earn dollars without sending workers abroad, continues to grow and is expected to post a 42 percent increase this year. Tax col-lections are picking up, while the bad loan ratio

Rina Jimenez-David

tainment mainstream

impact that watching the stage version for the

first time would have. But while the musical

left us feeling infused with a sense of power

and during, falling into the world of East VIIlage bohemians singing about love, friendship

and non-conformity (no matter our own bur-

ing real lives), the movie only reminded us

that "Rent" itself had already joined the enter-

A reviewer has argued that a major problem

with the movie was that the cast members

were at least a decade older than when they

first opened "Rent." Indeed they seemed to

lack much of the youthful fire, the hunger and

Despite these reservations, though, "Rent"

the movie is still vastly more entertaining and moving than any of the current cinematic of-

ferings. And there's always the tantalizing pos-sibility of singing along with other Rentheads.

SIX women pose nude in an inside apread of the latest usue of Marie Claire, the latest in the line of guessies put out by Summit Publications. But

while other magazines might have women posing

in the buff-or in the nearly buff-for purposes of

titillation or to fuel testosterone-driven fantasies,

the "real" women in this pictorial project not so

hard to project "come-hither" messages, the

women posing for an article called "We Think We're Sexy!" look not so much sexy as healthy, in

the sense of glowing well-being, not necessarily

To be sure three of the women posing in the

While models in conventional nude shots try

the anger that lay at the heart of the musical.

of banks ensed in Pebruary to 8.27 percent, a neven-year loss. The government plans to pour P410.4 billion in the next three years into infrastructure development and the like. That began last year when GMA said the P35 billion. navings from the 2005 budget deficit would be used for projects with social impact such as cheaper rice, health programs, education and farm-to-market roads. Last January, foreign direct investments totaled \$262 million, up by \$5 million from a year ago and the amount would have been larger if there was no political rurmoil. Japan is reported to be lifting its aid sus-persion soon. Throw in the bright assessments of foreign banks like the Dutch grant AB \- Amro and credit rating agencies, and it s obvious that the economy is truly recovering. Let's not stop

be expected to try to show that he's still in control of the party. Last April 5, he gathered about 40 members of what was claimed to be the LP national executive council (Neco) at Club Filipino to approve a resolution opposing Charter change But a party pravision says that while one-fourth of the 99 to 101-member Neco may cransact business, the adoption of a party position on a major policy issue, such as Cha-cha, needs the approval of the majority of the Neco. This was not the case at Chilb Pilipino. In addition, LP stalwart Ely Quinto points out that six of the 15 people the they work against them

The big problem the Drilon faction has to tack-le at the Comeler is that last March 22, 58 mem-bers of the Neco affirmed the decision of some 700 IP local officials to oust him as party president. As one LP stalwart mused, if the majority of

Singing with the Rentheads

MY DAUGHTER AND I GOT TO GREENBELT 3 about 5 p.m. to catch "Rent." We were there mainly because we were eager to join in on the "sing-along." (Newspaper eds had announced that "singing is allowed" during screenings.) Sur when I asked the woman at the ticket counter if there would be singing, she said the audience could sing along only during the last full show at 11 p.m. "But if we want to start singing, will we be allowed?" I asked. "Oh please, ma'am," she pleaded, "please don't start singing!"

I guess you could call us "Rentheads" because we'd already seen the movie version of the musicale during the benefit screening for the Remedios AIDS Foundation, and watched the local staging twice—yes twice—mainly because we wanted to observe how two different casts would tacke the material. My daughter had also memorized both lyrics and dialogue, listening to the soundtrack so many times she'd practically weam the CD down.

And now we also wanted to sing "Rent." Did you think puny rules about singing only during the last somewhat under our breath save for a few favorite songs-even as we could overhear others inside

the theater humming or singing along
At the movie's end, as we exited the theater
singing "No Day But Today," we passed other pairs and groups and they too were singing softly. How many of us were afflicted with the Last Song Syndrome that evening, I wonder?

IT was really strange that we would go to all that trouble to watch "Rent" again, with or without the singing, because we didn't even much like the movie vertion. All right, director u has given Rent ful, by-the-book and even fond rendering of the musical. And he used the original Broadway cast, even, with the exception of Daphne Rubin Vega who created "Mimi," but who was pregnant at the time of filming and was replaced by Rosario Dawson.

But I for one had expected an edgier movie a dizzying, hyper-kinetic, confounding and confusing production, with the same dazzling

mide are "molusog," a term that really means healthy but has been ro-opted by polite society to mean over-endowed, or just plain overweight AT LARGE But as Blaise, a marketing associate, proclaims Being sexy comes from with a

The editors of Marie Claire designated the cur rent issue their "Love Your Body" issue, with an article on "body love" that is not what you think it is, but on "messages" you can send yourself on valuing your body, appreciating your looks, and tapping your inner sex goddess

But more than the article's practical advice, the

pictorial of "real" women with less-than-perfect bodies brings the message home

AMERICAN actor Jamie Lee Curtis once created quite a splash some years back when she al-lowed a magazine to publish a picture of her unembellisted, un-air brushed nude body to prove that middle-aged women need not be embarrassed about or apologetic for their figures thunder thighs, bulging abdomens, dabby arms and all.

So many women responded with letters and e-mail filled with gratitude for the "positive" message her picture sent, said Curtis, that she was convinced she had tapped onto an epidemic of self-leathing among women her age. And by defying the raised eyebrows and snotty remarks of the public by showing off her physique, Curtis was standing in for every woman who had ever endured the tortures of the corset or hidden beneath the folds of a triple-X track suit.

Middle-age still lies far in the horizon for the aix women in Marie Claire, but already we can tell that when gravity begins to do its work and dimples of cellulite, not to mention liver spots appear, they will still believe in their innate sexiness, and defy time, age and public opinion.

In fact—and I say this not just to Blause, Gin-ay, Bam, Carmine and the two Biances but to all younger women—it even gets better the older you get. Your body may no longer be able to return to the sveite, sleek and sporty form of your youth, but guess what? You no longer care! In place of your body, you have yourself.

The dispute between the two factions of the Liberal Parry will be heard by the Comelec next week, and Senate President Franklin Drilon can Drilon faction nominated as new Neco members were absent, forcing it to nominate four more Quinto lamented that Drilon has been selective in the application of porty rules, invoking them when it suits his group and taking shortcuts when

your party's governing council do not recognize you as head, you must be in trouble

Cycle of learning

"A new beginning of

learning. The learn-

ing never stops. It

continues to run in a

Frankly, I don't remember anything of

agnificance from my

was handed my

cycle "

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT "COMMENCEMENT" MEANT WHEN I graduated from sixth grade four years ago. I thought it was just another word for "graduation."

But one day, my dad asked me, "Do you know what 'commencement means?"

Sheepishly, I told him, "No." "Commencement means a new beginning," he explained.

YOUNG BLOOD

Monique dela Peña

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their graduation, i didn't thoughts on current issues? We feel a burst of excitewelcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed. ment or joy when I

diploma by our disfied that I had passed Grade 6. I faked rectress. I was just a smile as I received the diploma. And I didn't pay attention to what the goest speaker and, but instead allowed my mind

I couldn't wait to escape from grade school. I had traveled a rough road there. It was in grade school that I felt I was no good at all. I felt I would always be poor in math.

My homeroom teacher would always tell my parents during the parent-teachers conference that my hearing problem was the reason for my academic woes. It was because of this that I felt demoralized. I was under a teacher who pointed to my hearing problem as the cause of everything that went wrong. She even predicted that I wouldn't finish high

I didn't want my hearing impairment to get in the way of my goal, which has always been to get good grades. It has been my dream from childhood to pass the college entrance tests to the University of the Philippines or Ateneo. It was because of this dream that I struggled hard despite my hearing problem. I wanted to prove to myself that I could be among the best. I believed that there was always room for improvement. And told myself to keep doing math exercises so I would be good at it

When we went to my brother's graduation, I remembered my own. It was of no importance to me. I was feeling bitter although I was glad that I was going to the next level

My brother had no problem with his academics. His grades were always good. His homeroom teachers always praised him for doing so well. He has no hearing problem.

The pain that I carry with me every day is a gift. My hearing impairment has made me strong and determined. I have parents who support me and encourage me to strive to do my best. They told me that despite the pain, I could cope with high school life. They believed in me

The Lord has never failed to enlighten me. I pray every night that I would do better. I wouldn't be what I am now if it weren't for the Lord's guidance and love

Grade 7 was another tough year, but I enjoyed it more than the lower grades. I was able to adjust quickly to the demands of high school life. Grade 7 is a transition year, and I'm glad I went through it because it helped me prepare for high school. It gave me confidence that I would survive buth

I have finished three years of high school already, And here I am, preparing for my college entrance tests. I have searned so many things about myself.

When I was in seventh grade, I discovered that I had a track for storytelling. I will never forget the day I told the story of "The Ugly Duckling." All my classmates roared with

Again, I did some storytelling in first year high school This time, it was in a class literary presentation to which parents, reachers and students were invited. "The Ransom of the Red Chief" made me better known as a sturyteller

My storytelling got even better in third year "Ang Dalaga m Ka Bestra," a story about a gay person, earned me recognition as the best storyteller in Fispino in the whole high school community.

I will be a sensor when the school year opens next June. I want to make my last year in high school worth remembering. And I want to make the commencement exercises a significant event this time around, I want to receive my diploma with pride and happiness. I will pay attention to what the guest speaker has to say. Best of all, I will graduate with Hying colors.

But my graduation is going to be another new beginning Just like my dad said, the cycle of learning is endless. I look forward to greater challenges when I enter college

Monique dela Peña, 17, is an incoming high school senior at the Maria Montesson Foundation.

Is France unreformable?

IT ALL BEGAN A YEAR AGO WITH THE FRENCH No" in the referendum on the European constitution. It continued ast fall with the wave of violence in the suburbs. Now, France has again brought itself to the world's attention with weeks of street demonstrations against the "contract of first employment" (CFE) proposed by Prime Mininter Dominique de Villepin to address high youth unemployment

These three sets of events, different as they are, together illustrate several deep-seared characterarties of social tife in France

First, France has found it difficult to adjust to the demands of globalization. Beyond ordinary dissatisfaction with economic problems, the failed referendum in May 2005 expressed the rejection by an important part of the French electorate of the discipline imposed by EU policies ensuring free movement of people, goods and capttal-and that of the primacy of economic competition. In a similar vein, last fail's explosion of violence in the suburbs reflected the frustrations of disoriented young people facing the grim prospects that a modern emmany offers to those who lack proper training and education.

The young are also at the center of the most recent protests, but this time, the disaffected include all strata of French youth, including university graduates. In combating the CFE, they express their refusal to accept a precarious life outade the French model of job security that their parents enjoyed in the context of a profoundly d.fferent economy

There is something very Prench about all this, because, while the economic rules of the game have changed throughout Burope in the last couple of decodes, the need for greater labor-market flexibility seems to have been accepted more easi-

ly in most other countries. In Spain, under a socialist government, coughly one-third of wage earners are working on temporary contracts; the percentage is even higher for the young, in Italy, greater employment fieldWORLD VIEW

generous physique.

much sensuality as confidence

Rapbaël Hadas-Lebel

bility was introduced by the Prodi government in 1997, and further strengthened under the sucalled Biagi Law of 2003.

In Germany, too, the coalition agreement be-tween the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats includes a provision that extends from six months to two years the trial period during which an employee can be dismissed without explanation—the same duration contemplated in Villepin's CFE law.

in all these European countries, the new employment laws seem to be accepted as inevitable in Prance, by contrast, the statist tradi-tion—which, as Tocqueville so apply observed, backs back to the Ancien Régime, and which is equally shared today by both the Gaullist and socialist ideologies—is strongly linked to a marked distaste toward the strictures of economic liberalism. Since the French Revolution, the imperative of equality has often triumphed over the concern for liberty. As a result, the French are enamored with the welfare state in all its manifestations

Not even the obvious failures of the Prench social model in today's environment-mass unempleyment (reaching 25 percent among the young), huge public deficits, the blockage of so-cial mobility—have diminished his public prestige. It would be much more logical to take insperation insceed from the Scandinavian model of "Sexistentity," which combines employment fieribility and social security (albeit at the cost of a tax burden that France would not easily accept).

Add to all this the Prench preference for ideological confrontation and the absence of a culture

of negotiation and compromise, to say nothing of consensus, and one can understand why so many reform projects in France end up being contested in the streets. Indeed, quite significantly must observers have automatically associated the recent disturbances with those of May 1968, which conthrues to hold a strange fuscination for the Prench in truth, however, other than reflecting the Prench preference for the politics of the street, the two phenomena have nothing in com-

So is France unreformable? Certainly not. The country has been transformed profoundly in re-cent decades. Whether it is the breakup of public monopolies, such as electricity, gas, telecommu-nications and even the post office, or the replacement of military conscription by a professional military, or pension reform, France has changed much more than is commonly believed. This is particularly true with respect to French companies, which have remarkably adapted to the demands of international competition.

But much remains to be done; the entire educational system, up through the university level, requires serious reform, and many taboos regarding employment tules, social security and the functioning of the state must be questioned, What the experience with the CFE shows is not that reform is impossible, but that it cannot be unilaterally imposed. Time must be taken for explanation, consultation and negotiation.

In a society like Prance, marked by uncertainty about the future and in great need of having its self-confidence restored, the time taken to build consensus and create legitimacy for further reforms will certainly be well spent.

Project Syndicate

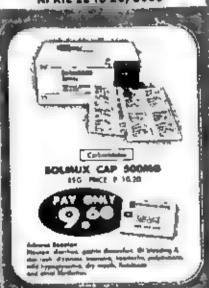
Raphael Hades-Lebel, author of "101 Words about French Democracy," is a member of the Consell d'Etat and professor at the Institut d'études pollisques in Paris. The views expressed here are his personal optitions.



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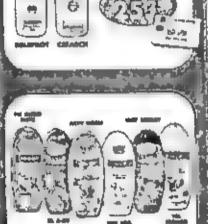
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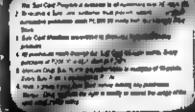




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PINION

Courts on trial

DECAUSE OF SO MUCH STREET and divisiveness in our society, our courts, perocularly the Supreme Court have never been saddled and burdened than they are today with high-profile and sensitive cases, some of which are of transcendental imporpince in the afe of our nation.

 A^{14}

As the sower courts, we can mention the rape case involving four soldiers belonging to the mightnest army of the world; the cases against the so-called Magdaio mutinous officers, hbel cases filed by powerful persons against equally powerful persons and the plunder case against former Prendent Estra-

Before the Supreme Court, there are the petitions challenging the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464 (decided lest April 20), the calibrated preemptive response (CPR)

policy, and Presidential Proclamation 1017, and most likely the challenge to the people's metative involving Charter change.

How will the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, resolve the cases? Our people wast with buted breath.

Below are legal gems, culled from the book, "The New Meanmg of Justice," sub-titled "Etsays in Judgment, Ethics, and the Lave," by Charles E. Wysans-"(L) aw end the sudicial func-

tion teach the moral responsbibey of man." (Wyzanski, Chapter on Judges and Judgment PS) The courts are truchers to

the cerrzenry," (P 84, Ibid) (T, he untiruction given to

the public by the judges is indispensable for the existence of a pervisive spirit of constitution-



deed, we can say such instrucbox nuctures and encourages "the reverence people show and the obedience they give to rules which they regard as obligatory such reverence and obedience flow is no small part from an awareness of basic principles concretely illustrated in court decisions and constantly expusined in opinions circulating among a wide audience * (Wyzanski)

Wyzanski, by the way, was a former law clerk of Judge Learned Hand. He likewise became a brilliant trial judge and was once described as "one of America's most eloquent legal spokesmen "

- ADMICINDO M. ESCALANTE, retired judge, Gubat, Sersegen

Nothing wrong with Meralco writing GMA We see nothing wrong with

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE letter, "Why was the letter addressed to GMA?" (PDI. 4/13/06) of Pete Ilagan. I would like to clarify some of the points he rassed in relation to Meraico.

We are puzzled why flagen had to criticize Meralco for writing a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo The letter was meant to tell President Arrayo of Meraica's position with regard to the open access issuc-specifically, that the company is amenable to allowing other power producers to supply the electricity requirements of large industrial and commercas customers that consume at least one megawatt a month.

writing her about that, especially because the issue involves public interest.

Hagan's concerns are unfounded. With or without his prodding, Meralco will seek the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission on the matter, since that is what is mandated under the law in fact, by giving its customers the freedom to choose their own electricity suppliers, Meralco has paved the way for the implementation. of open access. This, we believe, will eventually help bring down electricity rates. Hagan should have realized this.

Bagan bkewise harped on other issues: e.g., the Napocor (National Power Corp.)-Meralco Settlement Agreement, Meralco's "debt" to Napocor and Meralco's sourcing of energy from independent power producers (IPPs). We have repeatedly explained to Barata our position on these matters. but unfortunately he refuses to listen and instead continuously peddles his baseless and fallacous arguments and accusa-

We suggest that Hagan devote more of his time and efforts to more productive initia-

-ELPI O. CONA.JE., vice president and director, -leation.

What the Tourism Bill is all about

I WOULD LIKE TO REACT TO two editorial cartoons (PDI, 3/31/06 and 4/12/06) which crinciped Senate Bill 2138 Churana kill)

The first cartoon suggested that the Iburism Bill will deter courses from coming to our country because of an affered \$5 tourism fee. The fact of the matter is that tourism fees of every nort are collected around the world, whether it is New York or Paris or Kuala Lumpur or Hong Kong.

The fee envisioned by the bill will be \$5 at most and will go to promotions, development and contingencies. But it can be \$2 or \$1 or there can even be no fee at all. It will be entirely up to a tourism board, dominated by the private sector, to decide if the fee is needed.

The second curtoon made it appear that the Department of Toursam is taking over the functions of other agencies. The bill simply addresses issues that the provate sector study has asked for, or strengthens what is already there in an informal way. The DOT must work with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to make sure that taxis do not rip off tourists. The DOT works with the Department of Poreign Affairs in order to promote the country in the biggest markets like China and India, and with the Department of Justice to get visas for tourists from these countries.

The DOT already works with the Department of Public Works and Highways in prioritizing infrastructure for tourism destinations, and with the Department of Transportation and Communications and the airports to increase air access and

make travel convenient.

What is the Tourism Bill & about? (1) It is about having competitive promotions for our country by getting money from Pageor, Dury Free, the airports and the private sector Malaysia spends \$150 malion for tourism, while our DOT has the 4) third sowest budget in government, and currently spends just \$6 million. (2) It is about the DOT, LGUs and the private sector working rogether to uplift the quality of service to worldclass standards and protect the tourist by, for instance, ensurmy that hotels and resorts have Her cuits, or that trave, agents, not tour operators and guides truly know their culture and history, 20 and act professionally at all times. (3) It is about spurring on investments to develop tourism sones in an environ- er mentally and culturally sustainabic manner

The Tourism Bill is about generating jobs and opportunit on pes while creating incentives to protect our culture and envi ronment, it is about using the tourism engine to take us out an of the Third World and into the First. I do not stand to gun from this bill-ultimately, the only real beneficiary of the Tourism Bill will be the Filipino

The bill has 93 provisions; focusing on a handful of provisions does injustice to an effort 13 that can contribute to solving the problems of the country. I stand by the bill and will need your help in communicating the ideas of the bill to the general

-EEN. BICHARD J. GORDON, S./F Rm. 509 GSIS Bldg., Financial Centez. boulevard, Passy City

Silence and inaction

JUSTICE GRINDS EXceedingly slow in the ______ Office of the Ombuds man.

I am one of those of who, in 2001, sought ... the assistance of the Ombudsman to investigate multimillionpeso irregularities in the municipal government of Pantabangan, Nueve Ecija

After a lengthy fact-finding investigation, the Ombudsman Evaluation Preliminary and Investigation Bureau dismusted the adminustrative case against the concerned local government official on the ground that he was reciected in 2004.

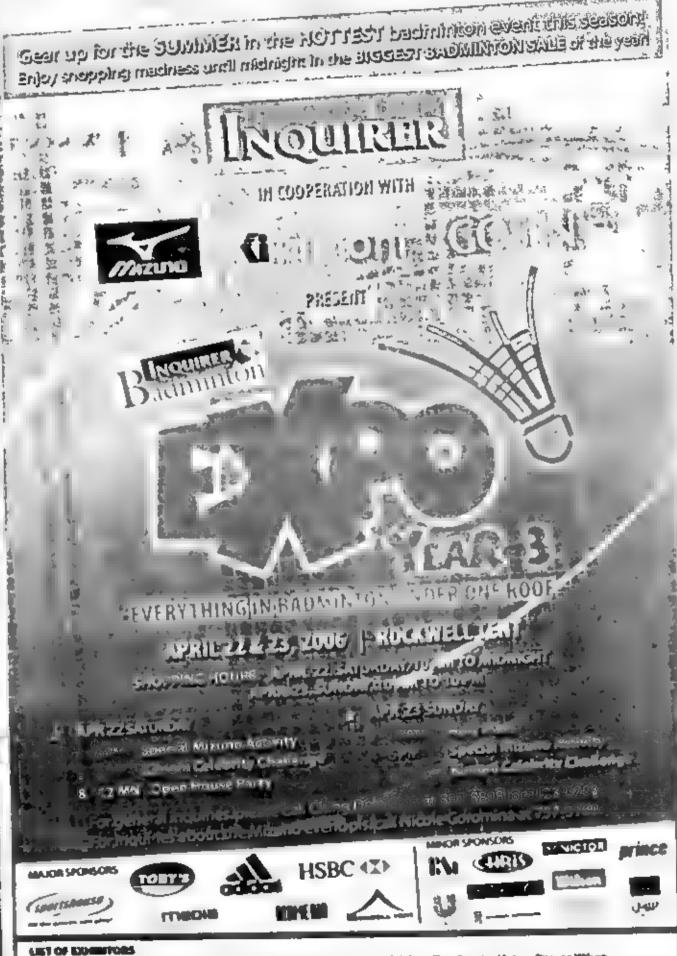
However, the Ombudsman resolved in August 2005 to file the criminal aspect of the case against the same official following The month, the respondent moved for a reconsideration of the resolution. Until now, the Ombudaman has not resolved the motion for reconaideration, in viola tion of the rule that ruch motions should be resolved within 10 days from receapt in a letter dated

Dec 22, 2005, 1 sought the assurtance of the newly appointed Ombuds is Merculon Gutierres on this matter. The setter did. have the UNIVERSE Herbin Ton 6713, INCA letters must be acknowl-

days from receipt. If the Ombudsman cannot even acknowledge a letter, how can she fulfill her duty to fight graft and corruption in government)

edged within 15

-- PRUSCO T. VILLA, West Poblacion, Pastabangas, Huova Ecija



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Students heckle GMA in Cavite graduation rites

A few minutes later, a group of protesters from the left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW) also raised red streamers calling on Ms Arroyo to step down.

The protesters were positioned at the row of chairs meant for the parents and relatives of the gradnating students.

As the group was escorted out of the school grounds by policemen and PSG members, they continued chanting "Pahirap sa masa, patalsikin si Gioria (A biirden to the masses, oust Gloria)."

"May karapatan kaming magpahayag ng aming hinaing. Huwag ninyo kaming saktan(We have a right to express our views. Do not hart us)," said Marlyn Gutierrez, SCW president.

"Huwag kayong mambastas(Do not be crude)," Supt. Roberto Soriano, the operations chief of the Cavice police, retorted.

The group was later brought to the police station.

Frisked on way to stage

The commotion halted the President's speech midway for about a munute.

She gave the hecklers a blank stare, clasped her hands but remained calm. She resumed her speech but this time, her voice had a higher pitch, which betrayed her irritation.

Ms Arroyo was then addressing the graduating class about the importance of mastering the English language in landing betterpaying jobs inside the economic zones in Cavite.

She wrapped up her speech without any more incident and stayed on to hand out diplomas to half of the 1,159 graduates, who were frisked by ponce and PSG on their way to the stage.

This is really a forgettable event," said one of the graduates.

Tough graduate

Pangilinan was allowed to march to the stage, but at least four ponce and PSG personnel tried to prevent her from getting her diploma to avoid further inci-

When it was her turn, Pangilinan shook hands with the President but both purposely looked away from each other On her way down, Pangilinan was beckred by some of the graduates who

on stage to get their diplomas after some graduates and guests

brought out placards calling for President Arroyo's ouster (lower



did not like her actions which GRADUATES are frisked (top photo) before being allowed to go they claimed runed their gradua-

A school official said that there was nothing to prevent Pangili-nan from marching on stage because she had completed all the requirements and what she did was only a misdemeanor.

The Inquier later learned that Pangilanan was the president of the Central Student Government of the university. Students interviewed by the Incurrer said she was also a staff writer of Gazette,

the official publication of CvSU.

Another streamer

Halfway through the conferring of diplomas, another student, identified as Apolinario Dayang-dayang, an agriculture engineering graduate, was also arrested as he was about to raise a streamer at around 6 p.m.

At this juncture, the President left the grandstand and boarded the presidential car.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliksi, who had a front row view of the entire incident, said he was embarrassed that the President was

"She was our guest of honor, we should have treated her properly. I really feel bad for the student for doing that in the graduation ceremony," said Maliksi, who has ordered an unmediate investigation of the incident.

mented Ms Arroyo for remaining unfazed throughout the incident and staying longer than expected (the President was supposed to hand out only a dozen dipiomas)

"She showed that she was a true statesman," Maliksi said.

Security breached

PSG and police personnel had reportedly confiscated several red banners during security search hours before the Prest dent's arrival.

PSG head Brig Gen, De.fin Bangit refused to comment how when asked protesters-who pretended to be parents of some of the graduates-breached the security line. The huge open field was cordoned off with only students and their parents and retatives allowed within the main venue

PNP Gen. Prospero Noble said the security for the event was the sole responsibility of the school and that the police was only there to help keep the peace. "The student's actions reflected badly on her school not us," said Nobie.

Tit for tat

Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Cavite police director, said the protesters were taken to the indang police station.

Asked if the arrested persons would be charged, he replied "We'll see. They are still under investigation."

The incident elicited several reactions from the crowd. "While l agree with what they (the students) were saying, they should have chosen another place and another event. The graduation rites should be solemn," one par-

Another said "Tama lang yun. Binastos din naman ni GMA ang boto ng mga Pilipino (What they did was right. GMA also thid not respect the vote of the Pilipuno)."

www.altociansing.com

Lottery racket rivalry

Up to 52 Filipinos were picked up for quesnoning, according to an earlier report from

With no word as yet on how many of the 52 remained in Jail, the DFA yesterday again summoned Saudi Ambassador Mohammed Ameer Mohammed Waa.

The Arab envoy, who met with Undersecretary Rafael Seguis on Thursday, was again called to the DFA late yesterday by Poreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who had just ar rived from Indonesia

5 more confess

In a press briefing yesterday, Esteban Conejos, the undersecretary for magrant workers affairs, said five more Pilipinos have confessed to the killings in addition to the two who confessed earlier

Filipino consular officials have not been given access to the Flipino detainees who, under Saudi law, can be held incommunicado for up to 60 days.

The Jeddah mission also noted that upon the discovery of the body parts last April 4 and the reported disappearance of several Filipinos, the ensuing police manhunt for the murder suspects extended into a campaign against underground lottery and gambling, drug trafficking and violations of the liquor ban.

"That's why we are now telling the Saudi ambassador that [the investigation] should just focus on the missing persons and the body parts so that it will not look as though there is a crackdown on our OFWs foverseas Filipino

workers]," Conejos told reporters in Filipino.

"If you put all those (illegal activities) together, you will certainly have many detainees," he said.

"Our objective now is to effect the release of as many OFWs as possible, and we can only do that by focusing on the murders," he said.

The new confessions "should now pave the way for the unmerliate release of many of the detainees," Conejos said.

He said information from the Saudi police was coming "in bits and pieces."

This was why the DFA and the strustilate cannot report on the motive behind the killing or on the exact statement given by the "confessed" killers to the Saudi police, Conejos said.

The undersecretary added that it has yet to he established whether the recovered body parts were really those of the missing Filipinos.

Only 3 missing

The DPA on Tuesday reported that six Pilipinos had disappeared, but clarified on Thursday that there were only three. The other three mistakenly reported as missing were found among the 52 Filipinos arrested by Saudi police.

Investigators have so far pieced together "two bodies" and "an arm," Conejos said, referring to the human parts which were found in black garbage plastic hags in the Sina'alayh district south of Jeddah.

Identification has become more difficult as the body parts were already decomposing but Saudi police are considering using DNA test-

Free breast exams put fake doctor behind bars

One woman became suspicious after the man asked her to remove all her clothes and began conducting a purported genital exam without donning rubber gloves, investigators

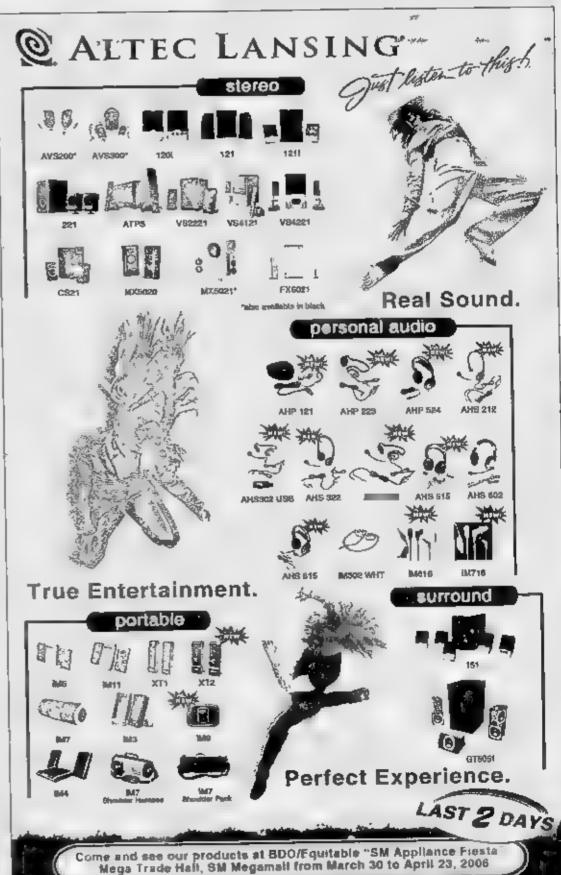
The woman then phoned the Broward County Sheriff's Office and the suspect fled. He was arrested at another woman's apartment in the same Lauderdale Lakes neighborhood on Wednesday, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

The white-haired suspect, Philip Winikoff, carried a black bag and claimed to be visiting on behalf of a local hospital.

"He told the woman that he was in the neighborhood offering free breast exams," sheriff's spokesperson Hugh Graf said in a statement.

At least two women, both in their 30s, let him into their homes and he fundled and sexually assauked them, the investigators said.

Winikoff was not a doctor, Graf said. He worked as a shuttle driver for an auto deales-



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Semirara spill cost seen to reach billions

By Hostor F. Burgos Jr. PDJ Vj. ayes Bureas

ILOILO CITY-THE COST OF THE MASSIVE OIL spill off the coast of Semirara Island could reach billions of pesos, according to a team of scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV).

UPv-commissioned comprehensive study on the impact of the oil spill, the team of researchers said the social and environmental impact would range from a low of P22 milnon to bilions of pesos.

"The (P22 million) is a very conservative estimate and this excludes other damages like the cost of irreversible changes to the environment," Dr. Rex Sadaba, project leader and mangrove expert.

The estimate also excludes the cost of the ongoing cleanup operations expected to reach at least P90 million.

The findings were presented in a forum attended by, among others, officials of Antique where Semirara is located, the Coast Guard, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aguaric Resources.

The research team conducted studies on the island on Feb. 6-10 and March 9-13 to determine the impact of the oil spill on mangroves, see grass and shells.

ir also assessed the socio-econonuc impact of the Dec. 16 ou spill that occurred after a National Pow-

Quoting preliminary results of or Corp. (Napocor) power barge ran aground off the shores of Semirara island due to bed weather.

The Napocor earlier said it would shoulder the cost of the desnup and damage and provide compensation and alternative livelihood to the affected residents.

The 5,045-hectare island is part of a group of nine islands off Caluya town, Antique, at the porthern tip of Panay Island.

It is the site of the Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in Asia.

An estimated 364,120 liters of bunker fuel spilled pear Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara, the biggest of the island's three villages. The spill is considered the biggest in the country's history.

Dr Joy Lizada, who conducted studies on the socio-economic impact, said at least 184 families were affected by the oil spill as it severely affected the livelihood of the residents who mostly rely on fishing, glean og (shell gathering and seaweed farming

Their studies showed that the average fish catch dropped from

6 kg (low season) to 17.2 kg (peak season) before the oil splil to 3.2 kg from December last year to Pebruary, after the oil spill.

There was no change in their fishing pattern. They went out fishing at an average of four to five hours daily and at five days weekly but their catch was significantly lower," said Lizada.

Other damages

The oil spill also wiped out fishpond production from an average of 460 kg per barvest.

The volume of shells gathered, measured in small plastic containers, also dropped from a range of 9.32 to 11.41 to 2.7 after the oil spill while seaweed harvests for a 28-day cycle dropped to zero from 748.89 kg.

The spill also caused health probless among residents especially those bired for the cleanup operations.

Prof. Mary Ann Naragdao, an epidemiologist who teaches public health at UPV, said storoachache was the dominant symptom found among the 955 respondents of a survey conducted to assess the health impact.

There was an increase of 8.1 percent in reported cases of stomachache among residents of Semirara and Tinugbok. But more cases (7.4 percent) were reported in Barangay Semirara, which was severely affected by the spill.

Residents hared for the cleanup operations uso reported more cases of stomachache ,28 7 percent, compared to other residents.

In most cases, these affected residents were given medicines for common stomach disorders kike Loperamide and Diarabe.

Naragdao, however, pointed out that the oil dispersants used in the cleanup operations could also have caused the symptoms especially the workers despite them wearing protective year like masks, rubber boots and gloves.

The other reported symptoms include dizziness, headache, cough, breathing difficulty, nausea, vomiting, wet stool, skin rashes and skin itchiness

Economist Rogello Subade said they were recommending that the residents be provided with adequate compensation to offset the loss of their livelihood They also urged the immediate

passage of pending bills on marine pollution and the creation of an oil liability fund to prevent or mitigate the damage of oil spills Further studies were also need-

ed to monitor and assess the longterm environmental, social and economic impact on the island and the residents, said Subade

Sadaba said while they had limit ed funds for the research, their findings were substantial to show the present status of the resources after the spill and the impact on the people.

The research was implemented through a P335,000 funding from the UPV The Boonomy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia also provided a \$5,000 grant for the someeconomic aspect of the research.



BORACAY was one of the areas that were projected to feel the affects of the oil spill in Semirars letand. The lears are turning out to ARMOUD ALPHACIPHING VISITED BUILDING

1 dead, 2 missing as boat capsizes in Cebu town:

By Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY-A CREW MEMBER died while two others, including the skipper, remained musting when their boat capsized on Wednesday night, about 250 meters from the shorehpe in Liloan town, Cabu.

The fatality was identified as Benfie Bulala, quertermaster of MT Michael-1, a tanker owned by William Michael Shipping Corp. based in Cebu City.

Still missing were ship captain Rudy Samillano, 60, and radio operator Romeo Sangcap.

Five crew members survived by swimming back to the shore, said Insp. Mile Dagasdas, Lilean

The vessel came from Bigan City and was bound for a compamy in Batangas to deliver caustic soda, a chemical ingredient used in the menufacturing of soaps, household bleach and disinfectant, among others.

The crew decided to make a brief stopover in waters off Sitio Suba in Barangay Poblacion, Liloan to bring down the chief engineer who had to be brought to a hospital due to diarrhea, said Betting Unchuan, director-owner of the shipping company.

But according to Samillano's wife Ruth, the stopover was made because the chief engineer wanted to get off the vessel to go on vacation and his replacement sized.

would be waiting in the compemy's shippard in Suba. Since their house was also lo-

cated in Suba, Ruth said her husband and six other crew members decided to disembark for a short The crew members used the

service boot to take them to shore because the ship was anchored at least 250 meters from the shore-Ruth said Rudy went to her

house for a few minutes to discuss what course their youngest daughter would take in college

After the plan was finalized, Rudy left the house. Later, she learned that the service boot cap-

Farmers pin hope on unfinished irrigation:

MASIU, LANAO SUR-FARMers here have not lost hope that the government would finally be able to finish a communal itrigation project, which was left undone for about 30 years

The project was started during the Marcos dictatorship. Mayor Aminullah Arimao sald

his people and local officials "never gave up knocking on heaven's door" for the completion of the project.

Arimao said they have continued writing the national government about the fate of the only communal pumped irrigation system in the town, which has already been deteriorating after it was abandoned by the government in the 1970s.

High school days

The project was not tested nor was it accepted complete by the municipal government, recalled Arreno He said he was trill a high school student when it was



The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said that until 1976, the national government's piecemeal spending on the project summed up to P50 million out of its P76 million budget program at the Arimao said they were won-

dering where the remaining P26 militon went.

Director Johnny Emmanuel, of the NIA office in Northern Mindanao, said he aiready certified the validity of the residents'

claim with NIA officials in Many

"Sako" technology

Residents said NIA Assistant Administrator Bong Salazar had inspected the dormant irrigation project that is now temporarily activated by "sako" technology or sandbag piles, roughly keeping water distribution on tract.

Misuari Mikunug, a farmet, said during each barangay assembly, the farming community would troop to the ricefields, pile up sandbags to remedy diapidated or unfinished sections of the irrigation system's concrete canal through the boyurshan system.

The mayor said his people had planed much hope on President Масирада!-Агтоуо.

"Her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, had helped institutionalize irrigation both in Congress and in his presidency," he said Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bu-

Plan to require 3-yr work for nurses called ill-advised, impractical

By Frank Climets PDI Northern Luson Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE EXODUS OF Pil pino nurses has long been bleed ng the country's health care system. But would a law requiring new nurses to stay and work here for a while be the tourniquet to

stop this hemorrhage? Health poacy experts said the move would not only be a human rights mouston but unnecessary

as well. During the national consultstion on public-private sector partsafe motherhood here the expdus of nurses dominated the pub-

Children order the weters of the Italia filter. The school vacation gives there sufficient tirms to spend in the river.

Pormer Health Undersecretary Mario Tagu, wale said a proposal being pushed by the Private Rospitals Association of the Ph ppines that nurses should work here for three years before going abroad is not advisable

"No American hospital, for example, would get a fresh nursing graduate, he said, adding that almost all new grad-

nership for women's health and unter stay here to gain experience anyway

ARREST O ALPHACENSPOI VISIONS BUILDING

"They don't mind the low searces for the first two years because that is the time they need to meet requirements to migrate,"

Tegulierio said that he, too, has tearned that problem in the 1980s when he was a hospital administrator He said they jost their nursing staff every three

"What is important is not to lose the nursing supervisors. You should invest in the goose that

mys the golden egg "he said.

He said hospitals training these new nurses should help them in their communication sluis instead and make their training globally competitive.

Access one hospital supervisor said that they should not be frustrated with the situation and instend seam from it.

Dr Alicia Lim, of the Jose Reyus Memoria, Medica, Center (JRMMC) said the rumover of nurses in their hospits, is also very rapid and there are often no applicants for residency training.

she said she treated the exodus as a chadenge.

We use the expertise but that's okey as we i," she said. "We should be gold that our nurses are

sought abroad She said JRMMC now charges nurses for a six month training

program Dr Antonio Lopes, also a former health undersecretary, said the Phisppine Nurses Association has been studying the usus for

He said stopping the exodus

decades

instead of getting frustrated, would not only mean rais the the income of nurses especia by in the rural areas but find ng ways for them to grow professtone ly

He said the demand for nurses showed that Piupinos are globally competitive.

A grady by the National Insidture of Health of the University of the Pharppines showed the Philippines is the biggest exporter of nurses in the world, with more than haif of them going to Saudi Arabia, United States and United Kingdom.



EGNICIO BALBAPOLNOSTI EBNIL JZON BLITEAU

The faithful flock to a life size image of Apo Santo Milagroso at the St. Nicolas of Tolentino Church in Smalt, Ilocos Sur. Devotees believe the image has miraculous powers.

EU thanks GMA for move to abolish death penalty

By Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY-AFTER SPAIN, THE EUropean Union (EU) was next to express its gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for communing the servences of all death convicts in the country.

The European Union warmly welcomes the recent announcements by President Marapagal-Arroyo commuting all death sentences into life imprisonment and certifying as urgent the bill on the abolition of the death penalty," the EU statement read.

The statement by the Austrian Presidency on behalf of the EU was released Thursday by Ambassador to

the Philippines Herbert Jager of Austria during a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing counter terrorism experts' conference (CTEC) at Shangri-la Hotel Resort and Hotel on Mactan Island.

The EU also supported Ms Arroyo's appeal to Congress to abolish the 12-yearold Republic Act No. 7659 that restored

the death penalty. "EU is a strong advocate of the abolition of the death penalty, as it is of the opinion that expital punishment is incomparible with human dignity and is no effective deterrent to crime," the statement said.

Timor-Leste Poreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Juse Ramos-Hortz lauded Ms Arroyo for her courage and compassion for rendering such a decision.

Ramos-Horta, in his speech during one of the sessions in the conference, said be understood the sentiments of the victims' relatives because be, too, had lost family members to cruel and premeditated violence.

Yet, neither I nor my compatrious would argue that we should take the lives of those who have done barm to us and our beloved ones," he said

"Sometimes the death penalty is the

From April 17 to 29 (Stocks are limited.)

victed criminal as he does not have any values to live for while allowing him to live is the best punishment as every hour or day in prison is a reminder of his borrible crimes," he added.

Ramos-Horta said he hoped that this magnanimous gesture of the President would be understood by Filipinos and would eventually lead to the forma. abolition of the death penalty law.

Ms Arroyo's decision was criticized as a gesture to appease Catholic bishops whose support the President was courting in the wake of continued attempts to unseat her.

The bishops' support is seen crucial in keeping Ms Arroyo's hold on power.

mylife

ROUNDUP

Soldiers get cash rewards



MAASIN CITY-The provincial govenyment of Southern Leyte has, for the first time, given out cash rewards to soldiers who died or were wounded in clashes with communist rebels in the province. The P10,000 in cash were each given to the families of Lt. ismael Manksic, who was killed in last month's encounter in the jumples of Hilongos, Layte, and Lt. Reden Ochea. who was wounded in the same battle.

The two were the first Army casualty and wounded soldier of the 43rd infantry Battalion based in the province. Gov. Rosette Lerias personally gave the amount To the families of Maniesic and Ochea last week. Jani Armaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

Outing turns into tragedy

CAMP VICENTE ... IM. Laguna -- A family outing on Easter Sunday transed into tragedy after three people died while 13 others were seriously injured when the seep they were riding fell into a revine siong a national road in Tanauan City Supt. Manuel Abu. Tanauan police chief, identified the fatalities as Jane Pon-an, Lorily Pagunsan and Jerome Dobla, all of Quezon City. Abu said the three died from severe head and body injuries while being rushed to the CP Marian Rames, PDI Southern Lezon Burney Reves General Hospital.

Rebels kill policeman

niet ouerrillas shot dead a policemar iji an attack in Pasacao, Camarines Sur un April 18. The policeman, identified only as SPO3 Aquino, suffered gunshot wounds in different perts of the body Army Maj. Jose Broso, Southern Luzon Command spokesperson. said soldiers were sent to track down the guerrillas who attacked Aquino Dellin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureni

Slow growth in Albay



LEGAZPI CITY-Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez admitted his program. for the development of the countryside in the province is moving slow and has achieved only 30 percent of its target. The program includes the expansion of road networks and building of new Infrastructure, Goazalez expressed confidence that before his first term ends next year, he would be able to accomplish at least

50 percent of the program's target. Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzen Bareau

200 new cops expected



LEGAZPI CITY-At least 200 police trainees are expected to be admitted to the regular police force in the 81col region after they complete their six-month training in the Regional Training Center at Camp General Streen Ola here According to Sentor Supt. Eleazer Bron, regional police information officer, the new batch of police applicants would help the region achieve z 1 1000 po-

lice-to-population ratio.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Lazan Bureau

Co-op to hold elections

"EGAZPI CITY—Members of the Albay Electric Cooperative Inc. (Aleco) here welcomed the holding of elections for the new board of directors to save the alling electric cooperative. Acting Aleco project supervisor Jose Misael Moraleda sald on freeday that, with the help of the Aleco Multi-Sectoral Council headed by Gox Far-Flando Gonzalez, the Aleco management scheduled the Aleco boxed elections on May 8. The cooperative's board was deactivated when the National Electrification Administration took over management several years ago. Also expected to help is The National Power Corp., which was requested by President Macapagel-Arroys to Edgar Alajo, PER Southern Lincon Bureau Submit a rehabilitation plan for Aleco.

Bar owner shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A har owner was shot dead inside his videoke har in 'San Petiro, Laguna en Tuesday night, police said. Supt. Sargio Dimendial, San Pedro Police chief, said victim Romy Velsson, 33, of South Fairway Subdivision, Barangay Landsyan, San Pedro lows, was inside the Rap-rap Victoria Ber on Humandaz Street. rin Barangay Lundayan when four unitientified men arrived at the area at about 7:30 Burn. He said the group of men, who were apparently drunk, asked for the whereabouts of a certain filladly, said to be a cousin of Veisson. A confrontation between the Marija Rumus, PDI Sautium Luine Bureau victim and the suspecis ensued.

2 held for bus terminal blast

29 bus explosion that wounded at least 17 people here were arrested by authorities in Davao City, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said.

and Ahadi Alian-also yielded bomb-making paraphernalia when arrested in Barangay Bang in Tibungeo, Davao City on Saturday last week.

CIDG said the bomb materials used in the Weena Bus explosion were similar to the ones seized from the suspects.

Cotabate City and had just arrived at the terminal here with 21 passengers on board when the bomb exploded.

tary have found traces of ammonium mirrate in the blast site, according to Semor Supr. Banang Hadjiril, Davao del Sur police chief.

work of the New People's Army (NPA) but a a hand in it.

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All partroulers relative to the elegibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9154

Interested blockers many obtain further information from the BAC Secretarist 129 Gecala E. Fundrista) and inspect the Backing Documents at the address given below starting April 21, 2006 from 3109 per to 6,00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Decuments may be parchased by weekested Bades how the address below and spon payment of a non-redundante fee in the amount of THEET THOUSAND PESOS (20,000). The medical of payments will be in cash. The Bidding Decuments shall be received personably by the prospective Bidder or his austrocated

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all polymeted parties on April 28, 2006, 3:00 p.m., 3/F Langhelong Parebends, CCP (Main Bids.)

Bids and aligibility requirements route be delivered to the address below color before May 12, 2006, 2:66 per All Bids what the accompenied by a 6d Security in the form of clash contailed check explaint a check, managems check, berth draft or previousable feater of credit or ben'd guerrance of stately bond based on the agency approved budget for contract, take Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on they 12, 2006, 2:00 pm at the CCP Board Room, 3/F Terghalong Participaes, CCP Complex. Paidly City: Bids will be operated in the presence of the Bidder's representations as

The sward of the project shall be based on the higher calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

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phys | NEVERT DULDULAG SAC Charperon (PDL-April 22 24 & 34 766) PTS-April 27 & 23, 2000

DIGOS CITY-TWO SUSPECTS IN THE MARCH

The C3DG said the two suspents—Golao Bawa

in a report obtained by the higurest, the

The bus was on its way to Davao City from

Bomb experts from the police and the mili-

Authorities said the attack could be the

Lates, a group calling itself the Urban Tigers Armed Group (UTAG), claimed responsibility for the Eldie Agustre, PDI Mindongo Burgas

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A2	1	corner	3,452	SALE
AZ	2	intentr	2,568	SALE
A2	3	Internor	2,611	SALE
AZ	4	18	2 573	SALE
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Proposal unvariagers for each property, sessed and properly leaded as to the blockhot number of the property and the proposale mode of adjectation (i.e., cash sale), learn) gad, must include the corresponding tender deposition into long of a casteries for missage? I check payable to PEA and deep him only universal bank:

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blacturies enhangementation under immedi of scenarity made in the Prepasational Documents and Proposat shall cause the fortisture of the tender depose in towar of the PRA. The fortisture of the Tender Coposal shall not be the PRA from personny all other resembles evaduable senter the TCR and applicable times.

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(Bgd.) SEVESTREN BELLO IL General Managor/CEO

INQUIRERVisayas

The forgotten San Vidal

By Gavin Sanson Bagares Contributor

ASTER SUNDAY WAS A WE LATE SY DAY AT THE CEBU Metropolitan Cathedral in One City At the close of the 3 ip.m. Mass, the celebrant de the crowd's attention to the left-side altar and told them to the unfamiliar new icon enshrined there, whose feast days the intent.

San Vidal was the true and original ** And of the late Archbishop of Cepatron of the cathedral, he said, and not the Cardina. Rosaies; San Vidal the Inmaculada Concepcion at the altar to the right. The Immaculate Conception at the author to the right. The Immaculate Conception, he explained, was the "personal immaculate goes beyond mere

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petronage of a local church, even one as historic and prominent as the Cebu Cathedral.

At dawn of the present millestrium, the question arose on who should be Cebu's patron saint. A controversy quickly forlowed, putting the devotees of the Holy Child Jesus, or the Santo Niño de Cebu, against the Marian venerators of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Rura time, it fed a media debate that seemed to know no resolve.

Thus, when the debate made its rounds on the streets, radio and television, and in print, and hit fever pitch in July 2002, the archbishop of Cebu, Ricar-

do Cardinal Vidal, issued a statement declaring the Virgin of Guadalupe the Patron of Cebu" and not the Santo Niño.

This drew angry protests from many Cebuanos who are used to the image's style as Cebu's patron. A promunent priest from the San Agustin Church defended Vidal's decision in media: "The Santo Nino cannot be called the patron of Cebu because He is Jesus Himself. We pray direcity to Jesus as the Santo Niño.

But not long after, the issue died down, and the Virgin of Guadalupe took her place as the patroness. In August last year, when the city was under



threat of dengue disease, the archbishop reportedly called on parish priests to recite at novens to the Virgin and petition her to ward! off an epidemic. There was no news of out-

Recently identified

In all the time, the public and the media ari) gued on whose divine patronage should Cebu-be under, the name San Vidal was neverbrought up. To many, he does not exist in the pautheon of Cebu's sacred icons. It was only a few years back that a pious churchgoer identified his image in one of the side altars of the cathedral and abeled it with his name.

Not until last year's renovation was there a? move to rehabilitate San Vida, to his current' visibility at the southern see,

Who then was San Vidal?

San Vidal's life, in fact, cannot be verified beyond the realm of legend. He was said to' have come from a family of saints (his wife and sons were all marryrs of Christendom)' during the reign of Emperor Nero. His glory! was death after having been tortured and fi nally buried alive for his faith.

Miguel Lopez de Legazm began to colonize' the Philippines for Spain at the port of Cebu on April 29, 1565. This day was (and still is) marked on the ecclesiastical calendars as the day of Saint' Vitalis (Saint Vitalian, or San Vidal in Spanish).

St. Vitalian

Pedro Chirino, the Jesuit missionary writing contemporaneously of 1600 "Sebu," observed that "the twenty-ninth of April, the! feast of the giorious martyr St. Vitalian, who is the city's patron saint . . is honored on that day with a solemn celebration."

San Vidal then was no common saint: he was entitled to a major commen

Chirino describes the scene of this celebration: "The Banner of the City is brought out by one of the Aldermen, appointed each year for this charge, who in full regalia presides at the public festival. There are builfights and other festivahes and public entertainments, in addition to all. kinds of fireworks and pyrotechnic displays put; on the night before by the Chinese, who in this art can contrive effects truly spectacular and seemingly beyond the natural."

On the 326th anniversary of this least, the celebration ran for three days, writes scholar

Resil Mojares "The fiests featured 'dianas' (dawn serepades), holy Masses, a civic-religious procession, horse races (organized by the Sociedad Recreativa de Cebu headed by Francisco (Jorente), a contest of musical bands at Plaza Maria Cristina (now Independencia), and a public dance are

Plaza Genera. Loño (Plaza Rizal) " There were also private banquets in the homes or offices of the aristocracy.

Banner bearers

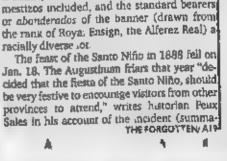
The complexion of this feast changed little throughout the Spanish rule, except for those tasked with bearing the banner of the city. Up until 1755, the banner was borne by the Spenish aldermen of the Ayuntamiento.

But when Cebu lost its status as a city that year, jurisdiction fei, on the shoulders of the Spanish and non-Spanish residents of the newly formed Puebio de Ciudad. A change of hands again happened in 1849 with the commencement of the grenuo or tax ward system with the Gremio de Naturales in charge.

This ward, despite the indio connotation, had Spanish and Spanish mestizes enroiled in it By the time Cebu became once again a city in 1890, the Ayuntamiento had become muti-ethnic, with socially prominent Chinese mestizes included, and the standard bearers



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INQUIRERVisayas

Defining moments for 2 Negrense women

Dauth, Negros Oriental

Nothing shapes your life than the commitments you choose to make. They can develop you or destroy you, but either way they will define

SIDE FROM THE FACT THAT BOTH OF THEM live in Daum, Negros Oriental, Alicia Tenido and Virginia Alido don't share much in common.

Tenido, 48. is a couple peer educator (CPE), while Audo, 34 is a Bantay Dagat tonod , sea guard)

While Tenido routinely per forms the task of a CPE in a large ly women's domain. Alido is the only female in the eight member Bantay Dagat team of Pobiacion District 1 Daum United Fisher men's Association (Poddufa)

Tenido deals primarily with housewives in humble homes within her purok (sub-vinage) in Buse, white Aido scans the seawaters in the nine-hectare marine sanctuary in Sitio Lupa, Poblacion I with male counterparts.

"Most of the time we talk to the wives first because men are more difficult to convince," Terudo said in Cebuano when asked about her strategy in winning converts to population management concepts.

Alido, who is accredited by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi , and female divers visiting the Luga marine reserve would often request her services.

Common passion

Divergent as their tasks may seem, both women are brought together by a common passion for advocacy that integrates popmanon, health and environment (PHE) espoused by Path Foundation Phi, ppines, a nonstock, nonprofit organization.

Borh were interviewed along with other community volunteers working closely with Path Foundation during an on-site visit conducted by media persons and information officers as part of a training workshop on the PHE approach organized by the NGO in



Dumaguete City on March 22-23.

A barangay health worker since 1984 Tenido was introduced to population management advocacy through seminars where she real sed the argency of planning, especially among the poor

With five children to feed, largely from the earnings of her husband who alternales between farming and fishing, Tenido speaks from experience when she interacts with women in the

"It is deficult to rear many children," she explained It is difficult to imagine anyone among the poor

housewives she visits regularly who would argue with her on that

A fisherman's daughter, Alido grew up to the lights of fishing boats docking on the shores of Lupa, the site of the marine reserve.

After completing seminars on coastai resource management, she realized that unless the vulage acted fast, time would come when fish on which most of the villagers subsisted would disappear forever

Things turned for the better in 1996 when the vidage declared the waters off Lupa a protected area. Instead of serving as a docking area where fishermen amoud

the manne reserve has become a favorite dive spot-a source of itve, hood for the Poddafa members and their families.

Alido credits Dauin Mayor Ro-Asnano for the turnaround.

"Since the assumption of Mayor Alanano, no one docks here anymore "she said.

That means no more trash and gasoline spills in the sea and the rows of stores along the shore. In its place is a well-guarded sanctuary where corais abound and a viguant citizenry keeps watch 24 hours a day

When we see a boat that is stahonary, we immediately send out - said without hesitation the taned to order them to move on," Audo said.

On a good month, the village curns as much as PS0.000 from fees collected from divers who marvel at the corals and other marine life in the sanctuary. Out of this income, 40 percent goes to the Poddufa 40 percent to the mun cipal government, and the remainder to the barangay.

Terudo receives a P300 monthly honorarium for her efforts, while Audo is entitled to a P250 monthly honoranum, aude from earnings

their trash and gasoline waste, derived from the barangay's 20 percent share in the divers' fees.

Like most advocates, both prefer to talk about the furth ment they get from doing something for the village than the monetary considerations. For the moment, both appear contented with the modest progress that their advocacies are enjoying.

Both, however, admit that managing the population is a crucia, factor that will determine the survival of future generations in their respective vulages.

"It will be more difficult if there are more people," Tenido

With more people fishing Jun outside the protected area the

catch will diminish, Abdo said Both not only reauze the unmennity of the problem posed by the population growth but also the crucan role that they play as stakehold-

ers working for NGOs such as Path. In all probability, they have not heard of Rick Warren but like what he said, the lives of these two women and others tike them are being shaped by the commitments they have chosen to make in their areas of responsibilities.

The forgotten San Vidal

rized here from the annotated translation by Fe Susan Go.

The priests wanted the Pendon de Castula (Banner of Castue, to be paraded in the grand procession. This pendon was, in fact, one and the same as the Banner of the City or flag of San Vidal seen by one generamon to the next on his feast day.

Thus, a request was made to the office of the Intendencia General. headed at this time by Don Francisco Posuelo, aide-de-camp of the absentee Don Adolfo Ardenos The request was granted and the office of the Intendencia then ordered the gobernadorcilla or capitan inow mayor) of the Grentio de Naturales to include the banner in the proces-

sion of the Santo Niño. The order, however, was met with resistance by the principales (officially, the leading citizens) of this gremio, especially by the teruente accidentai (vice mayor), Don Escolastico Duterte. Due to the illness of the incumbent capitan, it fell on Don Escousoco to decide whether or not to heed the order.

Legal opinion

The consensus was a negative, "since the banner was not intended for the Santo Niño" and "the purpose of the mars did not conform with, but rather overstepped, the jurisdiction of Church rights."



THE CEBU Metropolitan Cathedral circa 1890

the legal opinion of lawyer Don Segundo Singson who, in turn, fired a letter expressing the desire and espousing the rights of the gremio as legal guard an of the banner so decreed by the "highest authority on the islands") to dely

Disterte delivered the protest letter of the Gremio de Naturales personally to Posuelo who after reading it and soon after Duterre seft, commanded the Guardia Civil to order Duterte and the other principales to appear before him and explain their action

Duterte stood his ground in spite of threats of excommunica-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Don Escolastico then sought tion by the Augustinians. But in the end, he was forcibly resigned from his post as the tentente accidental and was replaced by the friar fearing terrente primero Don Rufn Salomea, from whom a renewed request for the pendon

> This time around, it was granted-but not too easily. Salomea's

order to have the flag of San Vidal paraded in the Santo Niño festival was not carried out by the aiguocil

de varas (constable) and his men. Ultimately, the thars of St. Augustine had their way Posuelo heeded the frays' desire and sent a squad of Guardia Civil, accompanied by Salomea, to remove the Banner of the City from the Tribuna, of the Gremio de Naturales. The abanderados were empined to parade t in the procession of the Santo Niño. So it came to pasa.

Forgotten

After Spain left Cebu's shores in December 1898, evacuating with her lost empire the Spanish community, Cebu had a postcolorual nostargia for its former Moth-

The Casmo Español was organized only within the second decade of the 20th century It helped form a small clique of Spanish and Spanish mestizon with aimost the same prestige as

in the days of the Ayuntamiento of the 1890s to lead in the city's

These Hispanics (as they are best described) were mostly recent prigrants from other provinces at the archipeiago, or newcomers from Spain itself who were escaping the country's increasingly repressive rule that led to a civil wait

The New Hispanies were griorant of the role of San Vidal in the conquest of the Philippines, a role long upheid (and fought for) in pomp and ceremony in the over 300 years of Spanish rule Instead the supposed natural heirs

to the devotion of San Vida, chose to venerate the Lady of the Pulat, patroness of Spain itself

San Vidal during the American period was an increasingly shad. owy figure ,aithough his catafa.que was said to have dominated the altar mayor), during ished in starus from "parron saint of the city" to "titular patron" confined to the cathedrai - a relic whose a graficance is dusted off on y on his feast day and vaguely remembered by the very few who

Indeed sames, like old soldtern, never die: they just fade away.

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN., INC. (Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)

BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSN, INC. WILL HOLD IT'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006 AT THE SEABEES SOCIAL HALL, BNS, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

COMMO DANTE Z RUIZ AFP (RET)

President

(POI April 52 & 25 2000)



BIOS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, liveright its Bids and Averdis Committee infrastructure (BAC INFRA Invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreosision Board (PCAB) to apply for suggestive in

Approved Budget

terns of Contract - Proposed Construction of Women's Development Center 85P Lamp | Lebt. 7-ty Zoo Yan, Brgy Kaumsian Tabu City Building Construction, Slope Protection & Landscaping

For the Contract P6.001.917.67

Prospective bidders should possess a velid PCAS License applicable to the crospicarye coulons another possess a year Provide Liquine approache to are concact. Naive completed a similar contract with a value of sit east 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of this contract. The BAC, NERA will use non-discretionary passified orders in the Enginitry Check/Screening as well as the Presmitary Examination of Blos. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-questional of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulers relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security. Performance Security Pire binding Conference. Evaluation of Bids. Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the perfusent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rutes and Regulations-A (RR.A).

The exhabite of BAC-INFRA activates in as follows.

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
 Recept from prospective bioders of Letters of intent (ξ⁽¹⁾, including Application for Etgiphis) 	April 22 28 2006
2 Insurance of E-gibbley Forms	April 22-28 7006
3 Receipt of Engineery Requirements	April 25, 2006
4 Notice of Results of Elegishing Check	May 4, 2008
5 Issuance of Bioding Documents	May 5 2008
8 Pre-pid Conference	May 0, 7006
7 Receipt and Operand of Balls	May 22 2006

The BAC INFRA Secretarist will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibidity Forms The BAC-INFRA Secretarial will asset to prospective bidder a Englishy Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Diffice Legislative Budding Capitor Compound. Cabu Cify upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount or Fifty Pasos. P50 00 to the Cash Division. Provincial Treasurer's Office Prospective bidders shall submit the Eighbidy Requirements to and may size obtain the results of the Eighbidy Chert from the acceptance and address. For lumber inquiries, one may call the Secretaries and cook at 148 Editor and 149.

The BAC INFRA will some Bridging Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Peson (P4.000 00) to the Cash Develon. Provincial Trassurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsouver to compensate or indemnity bidders for any expensal incurred in the preparation of their bids, and, reserves the ignit to reject any and at bids, waive any detect or informatily in the bids, declare a feature of bidding or not to award the contract

(6gd.) EDLIARDO T, HABIN

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PRI-April 25 6 35, 1000



INVITATION TO BID

The Maynited Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and

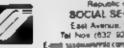
(Intigated prodets to mineum	INDI THE TONOMINE	
1	Description	Date of Bidding	Participating Fee
	Supply of Labor, Materials, Expertise and Technical Know How for the Repair of Aircon System of MWSI Offices	May 5, 2008	P 1,000 00
	Supply of Labor Malerials Expertise and Technical Know How for the maintenance of Lighting and Power	May 4, 2006	P 1,000.00

System of MWS: Offices Bid Forms are now available and can be secured at Purchasing Department Basement Karipunan Road Batara, Quezon City upon payment of the non-refundable participation fee

MWS' reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposal we've any formality or detect therein and will accept only the bid which is most advantageous to the company

(Sgd) LUIS Z. LERMA Manager Purchasing Dept.

(FO) April 23 S. \$5, 2009)



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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BIB The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee Infrastructure BAC-

INFRAL Invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Acc editation Board (PCAB, to apply for eligibility to bid for the Name of Project

Bnet Description Approved Budget for the Contract

Contract Duration

Proposed Repair/Improvement of Old CPORC Building Mul Cuenço Ave. Čebu Cilly Repair and improvement works P 5, 16 489 30

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB bloense applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC Bill RA will use non discretionary passified orderia in the Eligibility ChecuScreening as well as in the Preliminary Existingation of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct postquartication of the lowest enculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security Participance Security: Pre-bidding Conference: Evaluation of 8-5s. Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations-A (RR-A).

The actuation of BAC INFRA activities are as follows.

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intern LOI including Application of Eligibility	April 22 26, 2006
2 Insulance of Frigibility Forms	April 22 28 2006
3 Recept of Eligibility Requirements	April 28 2006
4 Notice of Results of Engicitiv Check	May 4 2006
5 Itsuance of Ridding Documents	May 5 2006
8. Pre-bd Conference	May 0 2006 May 22 2006
7 Recept and Opening of Bide	May 22 2000

The BAC INFRA Secretarist will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office Legislative Building, Capito, Compound Cebu City upon their submission of a celler or intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Peacs (P50 00 to the Cash Division Provincial Treasurer's Office Prospective odders shall submit the Eighbay Requirements to and may also obtain the results of the Elipibility Check from the aforement/oned address. For further Inquiries, one may call the Secretarist at (C32) 416-5400 local 110

The SAC INFRA will leave Biolog Documents Including Plans and Specifications perly to bidders declared by the BAC INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pasos (P4.000 05) to the Cash Dwiston Provinces Tressurer's Orice

The Province of Cebu seaumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify biddens for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the light to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informably in the bids, declare a feature of bidding or not to mental the contract

(Sgd.) EDUARDOT HABBI

(POI - April 33, 2000)

August 5, 2004

Maranter 16, 2006





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Noise in the Metro

Edsa-Taft tops high decibel area listing

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR EARS, STAY away from the following areas during a particular time of the day. Edsa-Taft Avenue in Pasay in the morning, Ayala Avenue in Makati during noontime and Pedro Gil-Taft Avenue in Mania in the afternoon.

These areas were discovered to be the noisiest among the busiest places in Metro Maniia, according to a study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas' Center for Audiological Sciences.

cal Sciences.

The other areas included in the study were Shaw Boulevard Mandallyong) Parmers-Cubao and GMA Kamening, (Quezon City) A team led by Dr. Norberto Martinez, the center's director and president of Better Hearing Philippines Foundation, conducted the study during a seven-day period. The team used a sound-level meter to measure the noise level in the six areas during the following hours. 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The results of the study showed that in the morning. Edsa Taff was the noisiest area, at 105 5 decibers for owed by GMA Kamuning, 102.9 decibers. Shaw Boulevard, 101.1 decibers. Farmers, 99.8 decibers, Ayala Avenue, 97.9 decibers and Pedro Ga., 97.2 decibels.

At noon the poisiest area was Ayala at 102.2 decibels, followed by Farmers. 102.1 decibels, GMA-Kamanag, 101.6 decibels; Shaw Boulevard, 101.5 decibels. Pedro Gil, 100.8 decibels and Edsa Taft. 99.5 decibels.

In the afternoon, Pedro Gil emerged the noisiest at 103 2 decibes followed by Shaw, 101 9 decibels; Farmers, 101 9 decibels Edsa Taft, 101 6 decibes, Ayala, 101 3 decibes and GMA Kamuung, 101 7 decibes.

The study sq d that at most, people can only be exposed to 90 decibers for eight hours daily, based on the Permissible Noise Exposure Level for Occupational Health and Safety Standards of the Department of Labor. "Beyond this, one could have a temporary or permanent hearing disability," said Martinez

WHAT'S INSIDE

a mechania dilag of designer, pal /A22

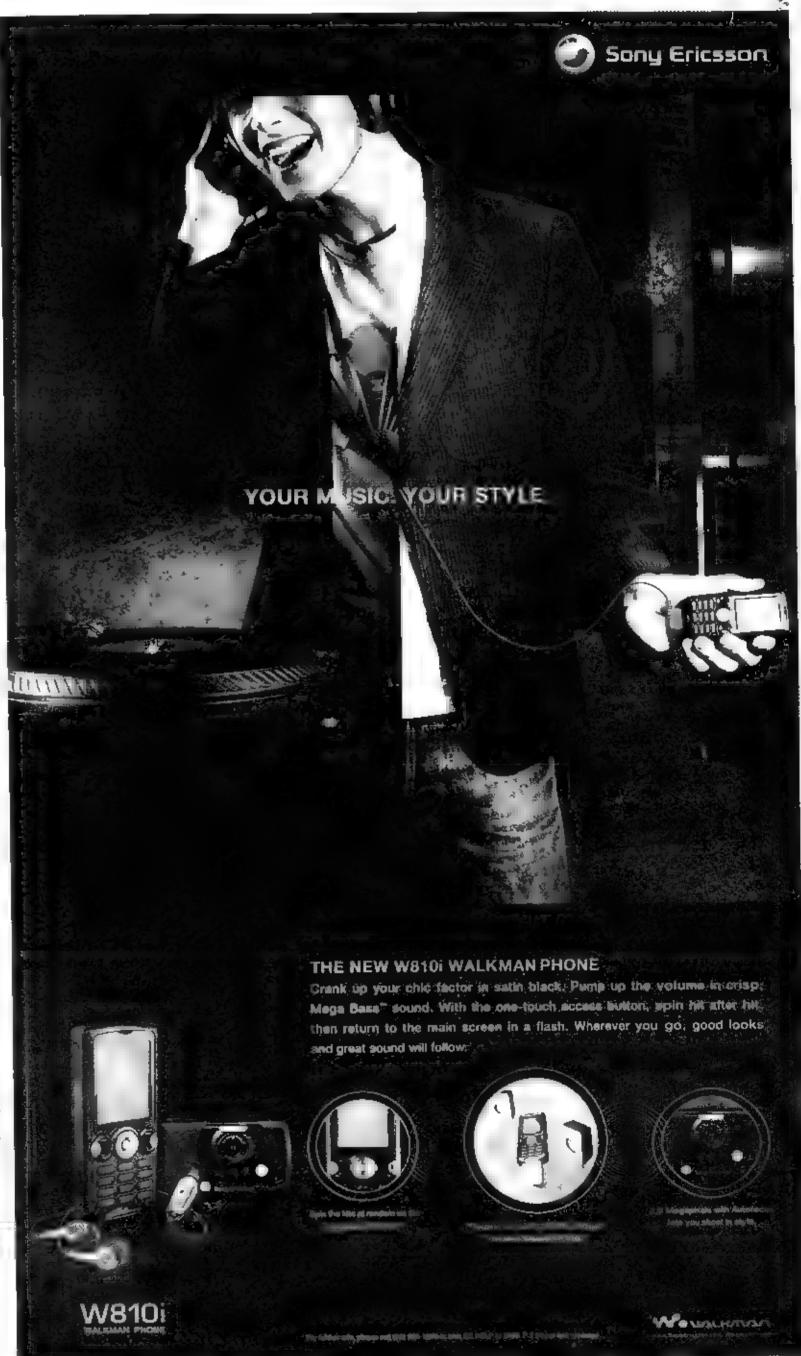
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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METRO

Robbery angle eyed in killing of designer, pal

By D) Yap

POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED A MANHUNT for the suspects in the brutal killing of fashion designer Meichor Vergei de Dios and a yet unidentified companion whose bodies were found in an abandoned car the other day.

The police have identified one of the suspects, with robbery being eyed as the primary motive, said Supt. Procopio Lipana, criminal investigation division chief of the Quezon City police.

But Lipana declined to name the suspect. He added that they were looking for other suspects, one of whom "knew

Another police officer said they were also looking into the possible involvement of a watchman at De Dios' home and office at 21 Congressional Ave., Barangay Bahay Toro in Quezon City.

The watchman, who dld not write in his logbook the time De Dios entered the building, has not reported for work since the incident, he added.

A mop which had traces of blood was found in the building's parking area, prompting investigators to believe that

the suspects had accosted and killed the victims there before driving them to the Commonwealth area and escaping.

The suspects apparently managed to get only a few valuables, including the stereo player in De Dios' car, since the designer did not carry a lot of cash and preferred to use credit cards, investiga-

The two victims were discovered at about 6:20 a.m. Thursday at the back of De Dios' Ford Lynx that had been parked nearthe Ever Gotesco Mail on Commonwealth Avenue for several hours.

Gruesome death

De Dios, a first cousin of Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center executive director Angelsto Vergel de Dios, was found with a white plastic bag wrapped around his head and a cord around his neck. The other victim's hands and feet were bound by a eather like materia..

De Dios was lying on his belly at the back seat and had several wounds on the head and bruises all over the body. His companion, who also sustained several bruises, was found slumped on the floor.



BUBBLY FUN

without tears

at mall expo

A child amuses herself by blowing bubbles.

METROBRIEFS

Twist in Razon case

.N a bizarre twist, the woman companion of Denver Razon during the car accident that killed him now stands accused of being responsible for his death. Marian Bustillos, 23, who was driving the Honda City that crashed into an electric post, leaving her hospitalized and Razon dead on March 15, was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide yesterday. In a complaint in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Razon's father, former balladeer and Mandaluyong City councilor Darius Razon, pointed to Bustiltoe as the one responsible for the assident that led to his son's death. Based on his own Investigation of the case, the elder Razon accused Bustillos of being the one who tried to overtake the 10-wheeler truck driven by Eunize Slazon, rather than the other way around, as Bushlio had claimed. He said the truck showed no sign of any recent dam-

age, belying Bustilios statement that the truck hit the car on G. Araneta Avenue, causing it to bounce off a shell gate and crash ento the post. The sworn statement of Slazon, who has also been charged with recidess imprudence charge, was attached to Razon's complaint.

Keep away from the bay

THE MANILA CITY government has arged the public not to swim in Manila Bay to prevent contracting skin diseases and other flinesses which could prove fatal. Mayor the Atlanza said there

CLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. ROORIGUEZ is a high concentration of pollutants in the bay which are not good for the health. "We discourage swimming in Manila Bay. There are so many diseases that could be acquired in doing this," he said. "They could get boils, fungus and other skin infection. And if they swallow the water, they could develop diarrhea," Attenza said. City health officials also werned the public against leptospirosis, a potentially fatal disease acquired from exposure to water contaminated by rat urine. Attenza said he has already directed the city engineering office to put up signs arging the public not to swim in the bay. The city's policemen have also been ordered to apprehend anybody caught swimming in the area. Violaturs however, would not be jailed but would be given a jecture on the harmful effects of Ties G. Santos swimming in the bay.

By Tarra V. Quismundo IN LINE WITH A FIVE-YEAR CAMpargn to promote the importance of English proficiency among the youth, the organizers of "English is Cool"

will tap young people as tutors. Tastead of the teacher-student atmosphere, we will have friends or barkadas tenching the students, so that learning English will be fun and conversational, not intimidating," said Junie del Mundo of Hands on Mamila. The group is one of the volunteer organizations participating in the program which hopes to eacourage the youth to hone their skills in speaking, writing and comprehending

written or spoken English. One of the program's projects was the recent Philippine Daily Inquirer's Inter-Collegiate Debate Championship beld at UP Diliman.

"English is Cool" will also hold an expo and job fair today at the SM Megamall, where trainers and learning providers have also put up an exhibit promoting the program.

Learn English Chocolate factory closure legal, says Pasig official

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PASIG CITY LEGAL OFFICE YESTERDAY stood by as decision to close a chocolate factory of the Universal Robins Corp. for lacking the required anti-pollution devices

The management of the company had said it would question the closure the other day of its 50-year-old plant, which manufactures wafers, chocolates and biscuits, in Barangay Bagong

in a statement issued the other day, the company pointed out that under the Clear Air Act, only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary, who chairs the Pollution Adjudication Board, could issue closure orders.

But city legal officer Curios Abesams, who personally served the closure order, said that the authority had been devolved and delegated to local government units.

We have the power to order the closure," Abesamis told the Inquirer. He also maintained that the closure was legal.

Responding to persistent complaints from neighbors, officers from the City Legal Office and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) padlocked the factory's boiler on Thursday. The boiler supplies steam to all manufacturing equipment in the plant. But, Centro officials said the plant's boiler was emitting smoke and soot because it lacked the required anti-pollution devices

Renato de Guzman, who mitiated the complaint against the factory said about 200 familiesliving around the plant had complained about the annoying odor months ago. Some even contplained of respiratory and skin illnesses.

The plant manufactures popular products like Nips Chocolates, Cream-O and Presto Cream.

The chocolate factory was not the first UFC plant in Pasig that was closed down. Last year, the local government shot down the UFC coffee plant after an annoying odor caused dizziness and astirna attacks among residents in Barangay Rosario. It reopened several days later after complying with environmental regulations.

Bishop Tobias' outrageous statement

Ramon Tullo

NOW THAT WE'VE KNOWN WHY PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo feels the way she shut up. does about the death penalty, we can't begrudge her fur practically scrapping it by commuting all death sentences to life

Ms Arroyo was the lone dissenting voice in the Senate when the death penalty law was passed in 1993, according to brountst Re-

unprisonment

Her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, was also against the death penalty.

In short, President Arroyo feets very strongly against the death penalty; she didn't issue the comunitation order on account of the meddling Catholic bishops.

We should give the President credit for being strong-minded and decisive in facing head-on controversial issues.

Other leaders would have flinched or dilhydallied in the face of a strong public opinion for or against an issue such as the death

Her fault sometimes is that she doesn't consult advisers who are knowledgeable in As Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, a legal

and constitution expert, says, for her own sake and that of the nation, she needs advisers who can dispute even her most strongly held convictions.

I urge a dear friend, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, not to be afraid in giving GMA advice in matters of the law since he's a lawyer.

Another fellow that I dolf my hat to for having the courage to go against the tide of public opinion is Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales.

Gonzalez ordered the downgrading of the rape charge against time US Marines from principal to accessory even as he knew he was going to get brickbats from the public.

Only one Marine is acrossed of caping a 22year-old Filipino woman on Nov. 1. He could face life imprisonment while the others accused as acressories could face up to 12 years in

As a public official, Gonzalez is a rarity because he's not afraid to speak his mind as long

as he thinks he's right. Others would simply

Devoid of emotions, the rape case against the three Marines-Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Chad Carpentier-would be ON TARGET hard to prove, according to

some of my lawyer friends. Charges against the three were downgraded (to accessories) by the justice secretary. According to Gonzalez, cheering their companion who was having sex with the Filipino woman

did not constitute conspiracy. "Conspiracy exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the com-

mission of a crime and decide to commit it," said Gonzalez.

Feminist groups will surely gang up on Gonzalez for his decision. But knowing the former Tanodbayan, he's going to take the

beating stoutly. He's been in worse scrapes before, including quarreting with some Supreme Court justices when he was Tanodbayan (now Om-

Invited to say a concelebrated Mass for former President Erap (Estrada), Bishop Antonio Tobias practically desecrated the memory of Manile Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for leading the 2001 People Power revolt that deposed

Tobias asked for forgiveness from Erap for the supposed sin of Sin, in particular, and the Catholic Church, in general.

Susmaryosep! Tobias went out of bounds in

asiong for forgiveness from Erap. He probably didn't have anything sensible to say in the homily, that's why he came up with

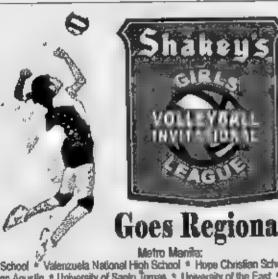
the outrageous statement. Expect cash donations to Bishop Tobles'

parish to overflow. A Bureau of Customs employee has a P10-

million mansion at the HF Homes in And you know the plantilla position of this

customs employee? Clerk.

budsman).



Prenza National High School * Valenzuela National High School * Hope Christian School * Philippine Cultural High School Colegio San Agustin * University of Santo Toman. * University of the East. * E. Rondon High School

Diliman Preparatory School. * St. Joseph College. * St. Jude Catholic School. * U.P. Integrated School. * Grace Christian School. Holy Family School * MGC New Life Academy * Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Mater Ecclessais School University of Perpetual Help * timus Institute * St. Francis of Assis: College System - Bacoon University of Perpetual Help - Motino

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University of San Carlos * Basak National High School * Immaculada Conception College * St. Theresa's College * University of San Jose * Cebu Institute of Techonology * Cabangkalan National High School * Abeliana National High School * University of Southern Philippines

GAME VENUES (FREE ADMISSION):

Metro Manila - Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym, April 22 to June 3, 2006 Bacolod - University of St. La Salle Hollo - Hollo Doctors College Gym Cebu - University of San Carlos Gym

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US cracks down on hiring of illegal immigrants

hension on Wednesday of more than 1,100 illegal immigrants employed by a pallet supply company based in Houston, as well as the arrest of seven of its managers, represented the luckoff of a more aggressive federal crackdown on employers, Homerand Michael Secretary Security Chertoff said Thursday

illegal workers, in some cases, as a form of organized crime, Chemoff said. the government would try to combat the practice with techniques similar to those used to shur down the mob.

"We target those organizations, we use intelligence to define the scope of the organization, and then we use all of the tools we have whether it's criminal enforcement or the immigration Describing the biring of millions of taws-to make sure we come

down as hard as possible and break the back of those organizations," Cherroff said at a news conference.

The news conference took place just days before the Senate reconvenes and perhaps restarts a debate over a comprehensive rewriting of immigration laws. On Wednesday, federal officials apprehended 1,187 illegal immigrants employed in 26 states by IPOO Systems North America, a subsidiary of a company

based in the Netherlands that supplies plastic containers and wood pallets used to ship a variety of goods, from fruit to computers.

Of the 1,187 detained workers, 275 have already been deported to Mexico. The rest are being processed for deportation, although many may be released on bond.

Homeland Security officials said company supervisors knowingly hired illegal unmigrants, provided some of them housing and transportation to and from work, and even reimbursed an undercover agent for the cost of obtaining fraudulent identity documents.

An examination of the compamy's payroll of 5,800 employees found that just over half of them had Social Security numbers that were either invalid, belonged to a deceased person or did not match names on file, the department said.

No senior executives at the comparty were detained, but officials filed criminal charges against seven current or former lower-level managers and a foreman. The supervisers, from New York, Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts, were accused of conspiring in transport, harbor and induce illega, immigrants to come to the United States, charges that carry maximum sentences of up to 10 years in jail.

Queen with 'twins' for 80th celebration

invited 99 "twins" to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday for a slapup much in the ballroom to mark the 80th burthday they all share.

The Queen, who turns 80 on Friday, was clearly moved by the celebrations, telling her guests "Thank you for coming today and I hope all those of you who are my exact twins will make the most of our special day on Priday."

"I doubt whether any of us would say the last 80 years have been plain



QUEEN Elizabeth II looking at birthday cards April 19.

our health and happiness, the support we receive from our families and friends, some wonderful memories and the excitement that each new day brings," she said.

The guests, who all share their birthdays on April 21, 1926, were picked for the palace lunch by beilot in January

Reflecting on lives that began in the year of the General Strike and saw World War II as well as Britain's transformation isso a prosperous modern society, she said "I believe we. can and should count our blessmes."

As three days of celebration began for the queen, Prime Minister Tony Blair led 80th birthday tributes in partiament, calling her one of the most "respected people of our time."
"Throughout, as part of the Roy-

al Family and as the Queen, she has been a reassuring and unifying presence for her people," Blair told the House of Commons.

"Her Majesty shows no sign of slowing down. She has just underraken what is her 14th tour of Australia, including the official opening of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, she attends literally bundreds of public engagements every year and is an active patron of over 600 charities and organizations." Reuters



AND THEY'RE YET PUPPIES

Chinese Shar-Pei puppies displayed for sale during the International Spring Dog Show in Havara. Cuba, April 20. More than 200 dogs of different countries are competing in the dog show

WORLDBRIEFS

7.7-magnitude quake

MOSCOW -- A magnitude 7 7- earthquake struck the Kamchatka per insula in Russia's Far East, 6,290 km north/northeast of Moscow, on Friday, the US Geological Survey said. The trembior, which occurred at 12 25 p.m. local time, was located 200 km northeast of 1 'pyrskly at a depth of roughly 12 6 ion, the survey said on its website. The initial quake was followed by a ne altershocks in the rag on with magnitudes ranging between 4 5 and 5.4, according to the survey Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, monitored by the BBC said there were no immediate reports ofdamage or casualties, according to a seismic research team in the Kamchatka region.

Nepai extends curfew

KATMANDU—Nepai extended curfew and shoot-on-sight orders Friday in the capital but pro-democracy protesters again defied security forces on the 16th day of a general strike, AFP reporters said. An all ance of opposition parties called mass demonstrations for the secand day running after tens of thousands charlanged soldiers and armed police defending Katmande on Thursday People stayed out to defy the curfew as soon as it was reimposed again at 9 a.m. on Friday. In the western district of Kalanki where police shot dead three people and wounded scores in running battles on Thursday, mobs of youths taunted security forces, shouting "Down with the King," Burning tires blocked roads on some city streets as well as on the outskirts beyond the curfew zone AFP reporters said

Rocking round the clock

TOXYO-- A Japanese woman was sentenced Friday to one year in prison for bombarding her neighbors with loud music day and night for two and a half years. Miyoko Kawahara, 59 and obless, blasted upbeat tunes on her radio-cassetta player, causing her neighbors to feel dizzy, lose sleep and sending one waman to hospita, for a month of treatment, the ruling said. "After the detendant stopped playing musto the neighbors' health recovered. The defendant's act was a persistent and malicious crime elmed at troubling her neighbors," said oudge Tetsuya Okuda of Nara District Court in western. Japan Delense lawyers had argued that playing music could never be a crime.

Bush counsel Miers could be next in revamp

WASHINGTON-JOSHUA B. BOLTEN, the new White House chief of staff, has raised the possibility of moving Harriet E. Miers from her job as President Bush's counsel as part of the continuing shake-up of the West Wing, an influential Republican with close ties to Bolten said Thursday.

The Republican, who was granted

anonymity to talk openly about sensitive internal White House denberations, said Solten had floated the idea among confidantes, but that it was unclear whether he would follow through or if the man would be acceptable to Bush, who has a longtime personal bond with Miers.

"It's a reflection of Josh's thinking."

the Republican said. "It's not a prediction that he's going to get it done."

A senior White House official denied

that Bohen was considering such a step. "It's not the case," said the official, who was granted anonymity to get around the administration's policy of not commenting on personnel matters.

The shake-up continued on another front, with Republicans saying that Tony Show, a commentator for Pox News and a former speechwhoer for Bush's father, was in active negotiations for the job of White House press secretary. He would replace Scott McClellan, who announced Wednesday that he was resigning. NYT

Scott Crossfield, Mach 2 test pilot, dies in crash



CROSSFIELD in a centrifuge machine on Feb. 28, 1956.

WASHINGTON—SCUTT CRUS oneer test pilot who was the first to fly at twice the speed of sound, died when his single-engine plane crashed in Georgia, the Civil Air Patrol reported on Thursday.

Crossfield, 84, was flying from Alabama to Virginia when his plane disappeared from radar on Wednesday. The air patrol's Georgia Wing located the wreckage of the plane and confirmed the death on Thursday in a statement Nasa also noted the death on its website, www.nasa.gov.

One of the titans of test flight, Crossfield made seronautical history on Nov. 20, 1953, when he reached a speed of Math 2-twice the speed of sound, more than 1,320 miles (2,124 km) an hour-in a D-558-II Skyrocker.

"Scott Crossfield was a true pioneer whose daring X 15 flights belped pave the way for the space shurtle," Nasa Administrator Michael Griffin said in a statement

'Nasa remembers Scott not only as one of the greatest pilots who ever flew, but as an expert aeronautical engineer, aerodynamicist and designer who made significant contributions to the design and development of the X-15 research aircraft," Griffin said.

The US space agency chief added that Crossfield's work contributed to the Apollo lunar program.

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para regrad Libration of Pickle

Grass has no medical value-

WASHINGTON-THE FOOD AND DRUG ADmunistration said Thursday that "no sound scientific studies" supported the medical use of marijuana, contradicting a 1999 review by

a panel of highly regarded scientists. The announcement insens the health agen-

cy into yet another herce political fight. Susan Bro, an agency spokesperson, said Thursday's statement resulted from a past combined review by federal drug enforcement, regulatory and research agencies that concluded "smoked marijuana has no currently accepted or proven medical use in the United States and

Is not an approved medical treatment." "Any enforcement based on this finding would need to be by DEA, since this falls out-

side of PDA's regulatory authority," she said Eleven states have legalized medicinal uses of marijuana, but the Drug Enforcement Ad-

ministration and the nation's drug czar, John Waiters, have opposed those efforts.

Congressional opponents and supporters of medical manijuana have each tried to exilist the FDA to support their views. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., an opponent of medical marijuana losnatives, proposed legislation two years ago that would have required the FDA to issue an opmron on the medicinal properties of the drug.

Souder believes that efforts to legalize medicual uses of marijuana are "a front" for efforts to legalize all uses of marijuana.

The FDA statement contradicts a 1999 review by the Institute of Medicine, a part of the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most presugious scientific evaluative agency. That review found marijuana to be "moderately well suited for particular conditions, such as chemotherapy-induced pauses and vomiting and AIDS wasting."

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



No breakthroughs in Bush-Hu talks

WASHINGTON — PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH FAILED TO WIN a commitment from Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday on immediate steps to reduce China's \$202-billion trade surplus with the United States

Hu did give Bush a general assurance he was working to make the Chinese currency more "Bexible" but this fell far short of US demands for a dramatic revaluation of the year. as a way to make US products more competi-tive in Chinese and global markers and reduce the trade imbalance

The two leaders also failed to bridge differences over how to deal with Iran's nuclear ambitions. Bush wants China to agree to tougher UN Security Council action, but his arguments did not persuade Hu

Speaking in the Oval Office, the two leaders sand their bilateral relationship had matured and they could discuss differences openly. "He rells me what he thinks, and I tell him what I think, and we do so with respect," Bush said.

On a long-awaited visit to the White House, Hu received the 21-gun salute and full military honors the Chinese had coveted as a sign of respect.

But in an embatrassing episode that marred the South Lawn ceremony and created a diplomatic stir, a Chinese woman on a press camera platform beckled Hu just as he began speaking. "President Hu, your days are numbered. Presi-

dear Bush, make him stop persecuting Paturi Gong," she yelled, referring to the spiritual meditation movement that is banned in China. She was led away by a Secret Service una-

formed guard for questioning, and was later identified as Wang Wenyi, 47, a reporter for The Epoch Times, a New York-based newspaper that supports the Falun Gong

Bush personally apologized to Hu for the incident. "I'm sorry this happened," he told



CHINESE President Hu Jintao and US President Bush.

Hu, according to Dennis Wilder, Asia expert on the National Security Council.

The Secret Service charged the woman with disorderly conduct and was weighing more serious federal charges that she intimidated or disrupted a foreign official.

US officials were annoyed by the interrup-

"The hardliners on Hu's team are going to ask, why did it take so long for us to pick her up. It is not a good thing," said a US official involved in Hu's visit

Chanese media made no mention of the incident nor of the hundreds of protesters-from yellowclad Palum Gong disciples to Taiwanese nationalists waving green Bags and Tibetan youth groups—drawn near the White House by Hu's visit

Talks between Bush and Hu began in the Oval Office, spilled into the Cabinet Room and continued during a formal huncheon when they broke protocol and sat next to each other so they could keep talking.

US National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley told Reuters China appears willing to resolve three of six-long standing human rights cases after Hu returns home. "We think we're going to make progress on three of them," he said.







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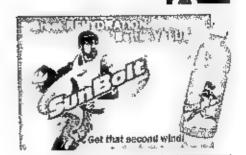
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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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RP Open back to W'Wack

By Jong Arcano

THE PHILIPPINE OPEN IS GOING back to its old home, the fabled east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. And millions of television viewers around the world will even get to witness it live

The Asian Tour and the National Goif Association of the Philippines vesterday announced the selection of Wack Wack as the venue for the 90th edition of the Open on May 25-28 with the promuse of a powerhouse cast and one of its biggest pot money in years.

Patrick Young, the head of tour development of the Asian Tour, said that the Open is "definitely going ahead" and that everyone is working hard to ensure its success.

Cometer chair Benjamin Abalos, president of Wack Wack, said that they were "very pleased and excited" to have the Open back to their club.

They are now in the process of sprucing up all the faculties of the THE DREAM THIRD CLASH BE-Open and are even constructing a viewing deck that will allow spectactors to see the action on the 9th and 18th greens and also on the first hale

ESPN will do the day-to-day satellite coverage of the tournament and will be beaming it live to an estimated 266 million homes in 32 countries including China, India,

Europe and the Middle East. ABC 5 will handle the local

Sponsorship deals are being finatized and if expectations are realized, the Open will carry a total pot of \$300,000 (P15 M) with the winner getting at least 30 percent of it.



MANNY Pacquiae accepts the "Bower of the Year" award during the GAB Boxing Convention Thursday night. ancowers

UAAP slaps 1-year ban on De La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP BOARD YESTERDAY SUSpended De La Salle University for one year from all league sports, saying it was through its own negligence that the school fielded two ineligible players in the men's basketball tournament.

The decision was reached after a sixhour deliberation at the president's conference room of Adamson University.

"DLSU knew or ought to have known about the matter at the time that these documents were presented for eligibility purposes to the UAAP," the UAAP board said in a released statement.

School representatives unanamously voted on the suspension of La Salle for fielding two meligible players in the men's basketball tournament in the last three years.

The board, however, ended with a 5-2

Five of the seven member-schools voted for a one-year ban from the premier collegiate league, while two opted for a two-year penalty.

La Salle did not vote in the tworound secret bailoting.

The league, however, did not disclose the result of its own investigation on the six-month-old case involving Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchauan

It has always been a rule that each member university has the responsibility to ensure that the eligibility documents are to be authenticated and/or verified prior

vote on the length of suspension. to or at the time of submission, as it is even required to bear the signature of its Board Representative and Registrar," the UAAP statement said.

In reaching the decision, the UAAP board also noted that it took months before La Sade admitted that Benitez and Gatchalian submitted spurious academic eligibility records

La Saue officials said it would wait for the official report of its two board representatives—Danny Jose and Life Tanjuatco-before discussing its next course of action.

"According to the rule, any school is allowed to make an appeal," said UAAP president Fr Max Rendon of Adamson

Pacquiao-Morales III on at 130

tween pound for-pound superstars Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines and Erik Morales of Mexico is pushing through this year at 130 pounds.

The final hump to the muchanucipated rubber match has just been hurdled and the fight is now set to go sometime in October or November.

Promoter Bob Arum revealed to Maxboxing.com yesterday that the prospect of Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales breaking the weight impasse is almost certain after the Mexican boxing legend agreed to follow what had been stipulated in the rubber match contract.

"Morales has agreed to go at -130 pounds. We're going to do it at 130 and we're going to do it in October or November," Arum told Steve Kan.

Morales outpoured Pacquiao in their first encounter at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas in March 2005. But Pacquiao nearly sent his rival to retirement with a devastating 10th round stoppage last January.

Morases, who has hired a weight conditioning specialist, had initially insisted he would honor the rubber match contract at the catch weight of 132 pounds. Pacquiae refused to bite.

Pacquiao told the Inquiren the other night at the GAB Boxing Con-

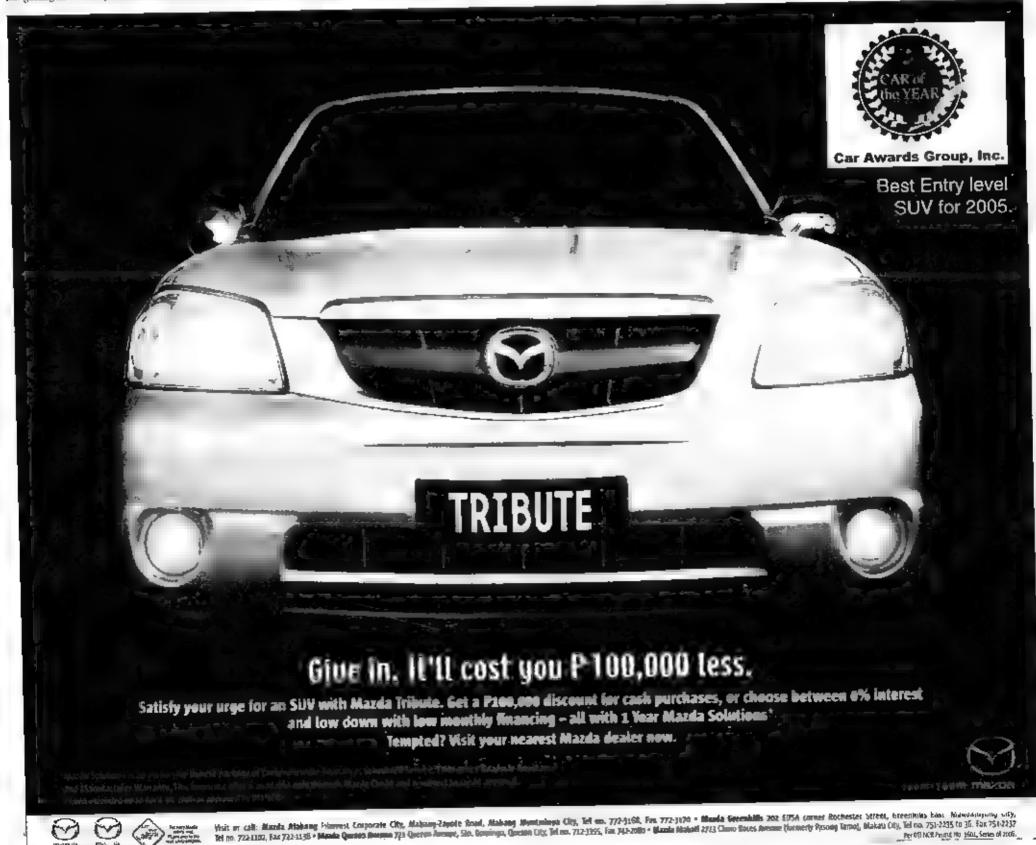
vention, where he was handed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and chair Eric Buhain the Boxer of the Year" award, that he will definitely give Morales a third fight.

He however emphasized be was not looking past the dangerous Oscar Larios whom he fights on July 2.

Pacquiao is set to fly to the United States next month to start rigid training for the Larios fight. He rehims to the country in June to continue his training at a secluded training camp in Baguio City.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, a close associate of the Filiputo boxing econ, said Pacquiao is also ser to attend various press conferences for the Larios fight in the US.





Badminton expo today

badminton industry come together for the Inquirer Badminton Expo at the Rockwell Tent in Makett City starting today.

The two-day event will offer up to 70 percent price-cuts from leading badminton brands, sports outlets and distributors of equipment, footwear, apparel and accessories.

the San Miguel Open House Party

Also scheduled are the Mizumo Dodgeball Tournament at 4 to 6 p.m. and the Kimono Celebrity Challenge at 6 to 9 p.m.

Distributors include Kimoni, Asics, Toby's Sports, Sportshouse, Adidas, Claris Sports,

The Expo will be open from Victor, Prince, Wilson, Kason, Rac-11:30 a.m. to midnight, capped by quets and More, Hooked, Badmintenshirts Unlimited, Anna Barana and RSL Exhibitors include Surotrade/Takomi, Brraflex, Puyat Vinyl, BSI Medicated Spray, Triso International, Teebox, CLIQ, Out Unlimited, Raymundo's Trophies, Alaivade, Lipton Ired Ten, Rockwell-Land and Brouger Badminton.

GAMES TODAY (Disc Engle Sec. 1 3 p.m.— Section 1

> 6 p.m.— Attendo vs. Harting Street Est.

4 p.m.—PCU

Shakey's V-League gets going

THE SHAKEYS VIEAGUE, the cartain-raises hoping to the premier volleyball loop in the country, gets going today with the core of four top collegrate teams mixing it up starting at 4 p.m. at the Blue Eagle Gyzn in Quezon City.

Philippine Christian University and Adamson, runners-up in the NCAA and UAAP respectively, collide in

make an impressive debut in the league.

Ateneo and University of the East square off at 6 p.m. to complete the twinbill that will be telecast over ABC-S from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramurez will grace the opening rites.

get a closer look at their racing heroes and their powerful ma-

chines romorrow when the Asian Pormula Three Corp. holds the

first-ever street drive on Roxas

Blvd. in cooperation with Ginebra

Local and foreign drivers will

show their racing skills aboard

their Formula 3 cars in the event starting at 2 p.m. from Quirtno

Ave. to Padre Paura St. Dubbed

the "Ginebra San Miguel Street

Among the drivers participat-

ing are AF3 regulars Dado Peña,

Tyson Sy and Pepon Marave of the

Drive," it is open to the public

San Mignel

Presented by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Accel and Mikasa, games will be played every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at the Blue Eagle

Two-time champion La Salle will see action on Monday along with San Sebastian, Lyceum and Par Eastern University. Marc Anthony Reyes

and, along with Dillon Battistini

of England, Alistair Jackson of Ireland and Filipuno lady driver Gaby

Winslow finished third overall in last year's AF3 circuit while Sy

was a close fourth. Peña came in

sixth. Dela Merced has made the jump from Formula Toyota and

"It's an exhibit of various disciplines of motorsports," said AF3

Corp. chair Ed Peña. "We are holding this to show to the public

that the Philippines is the leader in

motorsports in Asia, that motor-

sports is an industry that provides

BMW racing to Formula Three.



JIMMY Alapag of Talk 'N Text calls for timeout while on the floor as Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia looks on.

Explorers thwart Iligan Crusaders

PAGADIAN CITY-MAYOR SAMMY Co's Pagadian Explorers leaned on Ec-pro Peter Naron to subdue Firefly Lightings-backed fligan Crusaders, 91.86, Thursday night in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national baskethell championship at the jampacked city gym here.

Naron fired 14 of his game-high _28 points in the payoff period as the Explorers chalked up their first win in three games in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oll, Regent Poods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel

The Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz were still ahead, 82-80, when Naron struck hard from the stripes, converting all his nine actempts in the final quarter to cap the Explorers' comebacic

Naron also had six rebounds and

Another ex-pro, Bong Marata, and new recruit Lou Gatumbato ably backed Narcat. A former PBL player, Gatumbato gave stability to the Explorers' backcourt.

Cardona lifts Pals to third straight win

(Capte Dynamysical, States City, Capte) 4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Alaska

By June Navarro

MAC CARDONA POSTED HANDsome figures and Talk N Text banked on the big return of Donbel Belano to carve out a methodical 98-90 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty in the Gran Matadox-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliscum.

Cardona lit up the scoreboards with 16 points on trip of six rebounds, five assets and a career-high five steals to help the Phone Pals pick up their third straight win, fifth overall in nine games.

But it was Belance, renctivated from the injury roster a few days back, who provided the spark on two occasions that defiated the Realtors.

The second-string playmaker

knocked in nine points during Talk 'N Text's mild uprising in the second period and later delivered six decisive markess, highlighted by a threepointer, to put the outname beyond

"If you monced, Jimmy (Alapag) had overemended minuses prior to this game," said Talk 'N Text coach Dentick Purnaren. "Donbel's return mok the pressure off Jimmy"

in the second game, Red Bull defeated Ginebra, 83-68, to snap a four-game losing streak and improve to 4-6. Ginebra dropped to 4-5.

The scores.

TALK 16 TEXT 98-Cardone 15, Ferricks 16, Alapses 16, Betano 15, Taximus 10, Carety 9, Miller

STAL LUCIA 30 Espino 21, Call 16, Oracion 12 Gorgales 10, Torion 9, Mandom 7 Calizzag G, Tolornia 4, Cabagnot 3, Duramdas 2, Agapto D. Aquito D.

Cacatars 19-22, 47-36, 71-59, 96-90.

Tyler leads Cebu bets

MEDIE TYLER AND ALFONSO TONsoy" Carezares will lead poker players from Cebu in the Main Event of Championship on April 29-30 at the Casino Filipino Paradiaque.

Tyler placed second in the Poker Challenge Series while Canizares finished fourth in the Casi-

no Tagayray Hold 'em tournament. The winners in the satellite tour-

numents every Friday at Rajah Park Hotel in Cebu City will advance to the Main Event. Other Cebuano the Million-Peso Hold 'em Philippine. ... qualifiers were Noney Tirol, Bob Me-Quard, Tonyson Lee, Edwar Medalle, Wade Kaupire, Jesemy Chung, Manuel Regis and Raymund Garcia.

The search for the Philippane Poker Champion is backed by Philippine Poker Tour. Solar and Pageor Contact 817-9092 or 812-0153

livelihood to a lot of people." Philippines, James Winslow of Miñoza shares 3rd

AF3 holds street drive

RACING ENTHUSIASTS WILL England and John O'Hara of Ire-

dela Merced.

FILIPINO ACE FRANKIE MINOZA stayed on track towards ending a long title drought after he matched par 72 and move up to a share of therd place in the provisional standings in the weather-disrupted second round of the \$1.8 million BMW Asian Open in Shanghai, China.

Miñoza, the former Asian No. 1, had 141 aggregate at the Tomson

Shanghai Pudong Golf Club. Henrik Stenson of Sweden was 5 under through 35 hoies and was on the 18th green when play was called due to a storm. He was just a stroke ahead of Paul Lawrie of England who fired a 70.

Angelo Que, the other Filipino in the field, missed the cut with a 78-

SPORTSWATCH

Abapo, Batawang fight in QC card

PHILIPPINE junior weiterweight champion Bart Abapo and world-ranked Bert Balawang lead fighters seeing action today in Barangay Pakok, District 1, Cuezon Oby, Organized by the Joseph Jaloo Sports Entertainment Program, the ste-bout event is open to the public. Abapo takes on Christopher Saluday in the 10-round mainer, while WBA Pan-African channo Batawang takes on Noel Veronque in another 1G-rounder, Top-ranking bantam Johnny Lisar flotts the undercard against Daniel Ololim. Other Souts pit Sheneth Parti against Roberto Rubillac Ruther Del Castillo against Roel Lagonero and Michael Corree versus Max Orcajeria. Salver Lagarmbia

Premier Football League today

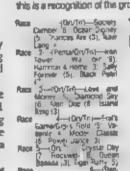
THE FIRST MPLFA-AAVA Premier Football League ricks off today at the Cuenca. Reid in Ayela Alabang, Munitiniupa City. Eight teams clash in the event organized by the Muntiritupe, Paramaque and Las Piñas Football Association headed by Cathy Riville. The squade are Alphang hits Club. Altas, Juventud, Ramnod, Yahanan Football Club, San Beda-Alabang, Muntinbuga and MSA FC. The event is co-sponsored by Ford and Siemens. Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, Rep. Ruitly Blazon, Muntimupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Councilor Renner Cayetano and Benjo Bernibe were invited to grace the opening determonies.

rvc ir badminton resumes in Pampanga

HOSTILITIES in the A/C Open Juniors Badminton Championships resume today with action in the last 16 in the girls singles and doubles event on tap at SM Pernpungs. Malvinne Alcala of Maridina Sports Hub and Gelita Castillo of Centro Atlatico take on separate force, eyeing a spot in the last 8 and a possible showdown for the 12-under see in the event sponsored by JVC (Phile.) Inc. The boys' singles and dotthe about temperature according to the ordenizing IMG

Tatap national selection tournament

SPONSORS are lining up for the Tatap (Table Tennis Association of the Philippines) National Selection Tournament from May 3 to 5 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadken, "Pag cor. Unitab. San Miguel and PCSO have repressed their interest in supporting the Tatap National Selection competitions," Tatap president Vic Valbuera said. "I think this is a recognition of the growing potential of table tennis."



BY TOP CHOICE

Mis (3), Monthy Matther/Ele-der (5) Place 10—Top Qf D'Line (5), Be-ing Strike 2° Gur Powder (5) Mas Dar Audo 1 Race 11 (Penia Ort, 71) - Cle-ticone Dauge 16) Mr. ul cas 5 Units 14, ul America (8), Best Strike (3) (Ort/f)/a -- Don Pao

La Salle seeks Spring Oil stays clean solo top spot Morante scattered 17 points

Games Terley (San June gran) 3 p.m.—PEU vs Alereo (ASMS)

De LA SALLE SEEKS TO REGAIN SOLO LEADERship when it clashes with winless University of the Philippines today at the resumption of the Total-Floil-Flying V Homegrown Cup at the San Juan

The La Salle All-Stars (3-0), behind ex-PBA players Tony Boy Espinosa and Alvin Magpantay, bertle the UP Fighting Marcoons (0-2) at 1:30 p.m.

In the other All-Star match, Far Eastern University—with Glenn Capacio, Joel Valle, Ronald Magtulis and the Pasco brothers, Rod and Dao-(1-2) buttles Ateneo (0-3) at 3 p.m.

High school games pit UPIS against La Salle-Greenhills at moon and FELJ against Ateneo at :30.

The event is sponsored by Globe and Shell and supported by Sumbolt, Immuvit, Accel, Gerry's Grill, Bank of Commerce, Banco de Oro, Security Bank, X-24, PBCom, Millennium Plans and Inhaw Circle.

REIGNING TITLIST SPRING 2006 PICAA Open basketball mumament at the Emisso Aguinaido College gym in Mani-

Aidrin Morante, Mark Yee Cooking Oil played true to form and Bobby Barnson combined while Yee and Barnson had 10 to beat King's Bakeshop, 84-70, for 37 points for Spring, which and extended its winning streak erected several double-digst recent over King's Bakeshop in the tourney supported by Mamila Vice Mayor Danny Lecure, Runich Café (Dapitan) and Chice Lightings.

each for the Cooking Oil Masters of patienal shooter Nathaniel

UP-Mighty Filter Kings turned back Homer Cagers, 86-77, in the other game to level their record at 2-2.

one RP Escoses

LLOYD ESCOSES, THE COUNtry's No. 1 shurder, defeated Hew Leon of Malaysia, 21-9, 21 13, Thursday to remain the only Filipino standing in the Robot Vietnam Sarellite Inches championship in Ho Cle Minh

The victory made up for the sorry lesses suffered by his tearrinares Wally Management

and Wilson Pres after storing impressive second-round victories also in the men's singles.

Fernandez fell to Malaysia's Lim Senn (7-21, 12-21), while Fries bowed to Ronald Susile of Singapore (11-21, 14-21) in the meet which is expected to gauge the country's chances in the Philippine Open next month.

Narional coach Errol Chan

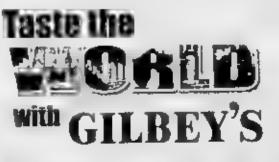
said he's satisfied with the wity the Filipinos played considering that the best players in the world

saw action in the meet. Jaime Junio and Therme Chan dropped a 15-21, 12-21 decision to Malaystans Goh Ying Jin and Kaur Anka Rai, while Frias and Paula Chan lost to a Vietnamese pair, 12-21, 14-21

Marc Anthony Reyes



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MOT TO BE SOLD TO MINORS.

SPORTS

Jewels try to keep lead

INTERIM COACH NEL PARADO

didn't expect the Montaña Jew-

els to adapt quickly to his sys-

tem, but he hopes the Jewels

will continue their cohesive play

when they face Harbour Centre

good start," said Parado, who was

tapped as interim coach less than

two months ago. "But I've always

thought Harbour Centre is a good

I didn't expect that we'll have a

In the PBL Unity Cup today.

Bold try at cybersex in the PBA

TM BLUSHING PUR-

ple as I write this. I am, at the moment, reading a lewd message from a male Friendster, a popular assistant coach of an equally popular PBA team, sent to a female friendster, the sexy, live-in partner of his alumni teammate.

Beth Celis

IN HUDDLE

I've heard of phone sex, but this is the first time I've come across In-

Frankly, I thought this former cager was wholesome. At least, that's the image he projects. I didn't know he had a sexual perversion.

The seduction is objectionable because the lady's boyfriend is not only a teammate but a friend. He was shocked when his girlfriend showed him the message that came from somebody he considered his college buddy

Allow me to print some of the tess censurable parts:

"You're so hot! Text me at these nos. (he gives two). I'm hoping you will let me have my way with your sexy body. Promise nobody will know. I will kiss you from your head, to your breast, down to your (breep!).

And then the assistant coach proceeds to describe, in lurid detail, how he will complete the seduction. I'm not printing his succeeding lines which are fit only for porno publications. (Por sure, these will be censored by my editors.)

The assistant coach ends the letter by reminding the object of his just to can. Again, he promises that nobody will know.

What infunates the boyfriend no end is the presumptuousness of the indecent proposer

"He has the delusion that he is God's gift to women, and he seems to be very confident that his quarry will fall prey to his advances," the boyfriend said.

I'm not sure how the boyfriend will handle the situation, but if I were the techer, I'd be worried. Friends in the PBA circles say this guy has a weakness for his teammates' partners

The invitation from Adidas assistant communications manager Odette Veiarde said it was going to be a surprise birthday party in honor of officemate Goody Custodio, who was turning 39 thus April. Odette said we had to be at the Vanilla Bar along Sgt Esguerra Avenue at 6 p.m not a minute more.

I'was frantic when I got to the place way past 6 p.m. but, to my surprise, there was hardly anybody inside the bar, except colleague Bill Velasco and his writer friend Yourn.

Noting my puzzled took, Bill declared: "That's the surprise, there's nobody here!" he

It didn't take long, though, before celebrities started pouring in, most of them Adidas endorsers: Red Bull's Ennco Villanueva, Larry Fonacier, and Topex Robinson, Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio, Ronnie Magsanoc, wife Bing, and Peter Jun Simon, Christian Luanzon of Harbour Centre, Reed Juntilla of Montaña, Soiar's Jude Turcuato, Adidas general manager John Alonte and marketing director Angelica Suiza soon filled up two long tables.

Goody finally arrived at 9 p.m. with friend Solomon Cu who planned the party and dragged him there. We were a bit surprised that Goody wasn't that surprised. He must've gotten wind of it earlier. But he was visibly pleased. He said his birthday was actually two days earlier

At the party, Danny E was busy distributing a letter from GMA-7's "Wish Ko Lang" show inviting the recipient to a special tribute to cager Hernam Demegilio on Wednesday, April 26, at 12 noon

Most of those invited were Demegillo's former teammates like Abe King, Pading Israel, Boy Cristobal, Willie Grinilao, Onse Dela Cruz, Alan Caidk, Victorino and Buchmannin, to name a few."

"Wish ko lang, sana tama ang spelling ng mga names," commented Bill V after reading the letter

RAMES TODAY (Olivarus Sports Center) -Harbour Centre versus Monteña

4 p.m. -- Magnolla versus Rein or Shine

team. From the start, I picked them as one of the top teams.

The Jewels will vie to keep the solo lead at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. battle between last conference's finalists Rain or Shine and

Magnolia Ice Cream at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parahaque.

Vererans Alex Compton and Enc dela Cuesta keyed the Jewels' bio for the solo lead at 5.1 after rupping Hapee-PCU, 90-81, in overtime last

Joseph Yeo proved to be instrumentai in Harbour Centre's resurgence, averaging 22 points in the Portmasters' back-to-back victories. LUZON ASSOCIATION leges Foundation (Mascuf) of State Universities and Colleges (Lasue) ruled the 1st Philippine Asso-

ciation of State Universities and Colleges (Pasuc) National Sports Olym-pies with a haul of 166 goid, 66 silver and 16 bronze medals.

Second place went to Mindanao Association of State Universities and Col-

Lasuc tops Pasuc with a 38-87-65 tally while Visayas Association of State Universities and Colleges (Vasue) ended with a 0-38-105 haul at the Marikina Sports Płaza, Marikina City.

Most bemedaled athlete was Merily Teodisio of RTU and Lastic, who grabbed 5 golds in triple jump, long jump, high jump, 4x100 and 4x400 meter relays.



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MATERIA IN NOT TO BE BOLD TO MINORS.



Dunk legend hits town NBA playoffs: LeBron

DARRYL DAWKINS, WHO GOES BY THE year-old and was chosen fifth moniker Chocolate Thunder, is coming. And

he's got a name for every dunk he'll make. The former Philadelphia 76er planes in Monday morning to join other former Na-tiona. Baskethall Association greats in The Bad Boy Tour.

The 6-foot-11 banger, whose 14-year career also saw stops in New Jersey, Detroit and Utah, is one of the former NBA superstars who will play the San Miguel All-Stars on Thursday in Mandaue and with Pilipinas Basketball on May 1 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'll dunk every time the opportunity presents itself," Dawkins said. "And for the Filpine fans, I'll name each one of them."

Dawkins entered the 1975 draft as a 19-

overall by the 76ers, becoming the first-ever player to make the NBA straight out of high school.

crowd-pleasing Darwicins' flamboyance was one of his trademarks, along with the slam dunks he made, which, incidentally he all named. The "In-Your-Pace-Disgrace," "four Mornina," the "Earthquake Breaker" the "Turbo Sexophonic Delight" and the "Go-Rilla Dunk" were just some of the slams that Dawions christened.

He will start at center for the NBA greats, winch will be reinforced by similar high-flying standouts of the NBA's developmental



DAWKINS

ague.
"Darryl personally told me that these games will not be Sunday drive," Mario Whitmire, president of the organizing West End

Sports, said. The game at the Big Dome on Thursday will be against Cloot Reyes' formidable team made up of the forest stars in the Philippine Baskerball Association and the Philippine Basketball League.

Journg Dawkins in the NBA All Star team are Ous Birdsong, Sidney Moncrief, Hall-of-Famers Calvin Murphy and Alex English and had boy Dennis Rodman.

The game is set at 5:30 p.m.

finally in, Kobe returns

NEW YORK-THE NATIONAL BAS- ready to make up for lost time. hethall Association is heading into the premier part of its season-the playoffs, and it has its two biggest attractions in the center of the spot-

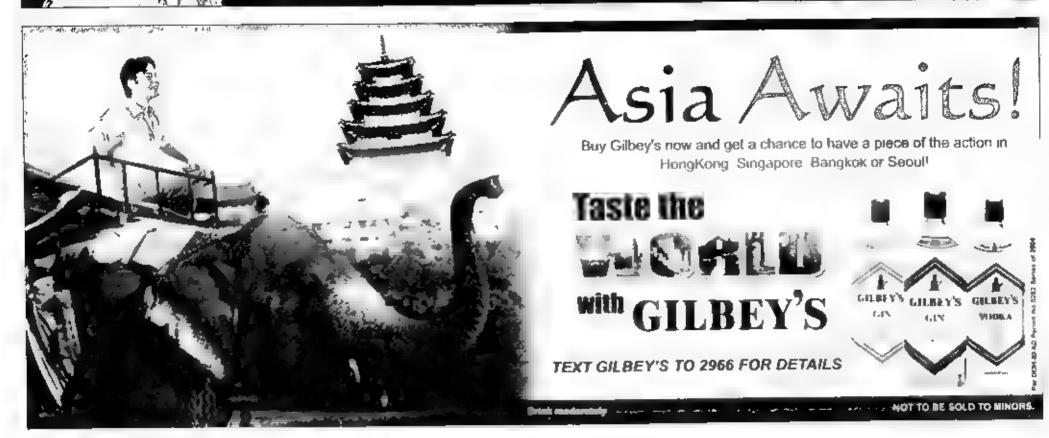
Last year, neither LeBron James' Cleveland Cavahers nor Kobe Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers qualified for the playoffs, leaving both out of the part of the NBA season that can make careers.

James thought he was headed there last year before a late-season collapse left the Cleveland Cavariers at home. Now in his third year, he's

"I don't put timelines on anything," James said Thursday, "It's tinfortunate I didn't make it the .ast two vears, but I'm here now."

Not surprisingly, James and Bryant get the prime slots this week end. The Cavaliers open their first postseason since 1998 on Saturday afternoon on national television against the Washington Wizards, and the Lakers have the Sunday afternoon TV game for both their opener at Phoenix and Game 4 back at State pies Center next weekend.







SATURDAY, **APRIL 22, 2006** PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Editor Nestor U. Torre Assistant Editor Rito P. Asiio

(TEXT DEARGODTO 266)

Page for Appair & AMP Page to for other SMART subsc



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Join the Marian Pilgrimage Lourdes & Fatima Rome, Portugal, France, Spain

in, Glegraio Bammelerar OSB

PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAIN NAY 30 - JUNE 16, 2006

By Rito R Asilo

"Eight Below"

D: Frank Marshall

8 Paul Walker, Bruce Greenwood, Jason Biggs, Moon Bloodgood

A DOG IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND BUT IN Frank Marshall's avolving canine-adventure drama, inspired by the true story of a Japanese expedition to the South Pole in Japanese expedition to the South Pole in 1958, the film's eight loyar canine protagonists suddenly find themselves abandoned by their human masters, led by expedition specialist, Jerry (Paul Walker), and geologist, Dr. Davis McClaren (Bruce Greenwood), when the worst Antarctic storm in 25 years comes crashing into the ice-covered continent. This happens after the cuddly but battle-scarred dogs lead McClaren to recover a fragment of a meteorite from Mercury, save him from failing into a deep crevasse—and from

from fazing into a deep crevasse—and from imminent death

For the next six months, the abandoned canne heroes are left to fend for themselves against hunger, stubborn sea lions and the

brural arctic winter.

Marshall ("Alive") returns to the battle against-the elements film genre, and delivers an endearing, feet-good romp and edge of your-seat entertainment about survival, and friendship forged between man and beast

Their human counterparts pass muster, but it's the four-regged protagonists who demonstrate boundless cuteness and "thespic" savvy in the fi.m.

Jerry and Davis repeatedly philosophize: "You have to take chances for the things you care about." Wise words, indeed. But, it's their canine buddles who rise to the occasion and take this old maxim to heart. Smff.

"Tristan + Isolde"

D. Kevin Reynolds

S: James Franco, Sophia Myles

The tragic, bittersweet romance of Romeo and Judet takes a refreshing Celtic tweaking in Kevin Reynoids film about Tristan (played by the dashing and smoldering James Franco) and Isolde (Sophia Myles, who charms and stears hearts effortiessiy). They meet and magically match when the latter's left-fordead body is washed ashore in Ireland in the year 600 A.D. She revives his sagging spir ts-and his heart.

Unfortunately, th aware that their respective fathers are bitter rivals, who fiercely wrestle for power and sovereignty.

Unlike the stubborn offsprings of the Montagues and Capulets, however, Tristan and Isolde are more mindfu, of their obligations to family and country. But, sometimes, destiny has a way of weaving magic and mayhem in unknowing mortals—even a lovelorn pair who doesn't defy its will

"The Cooler"

D. Wayne Kramer

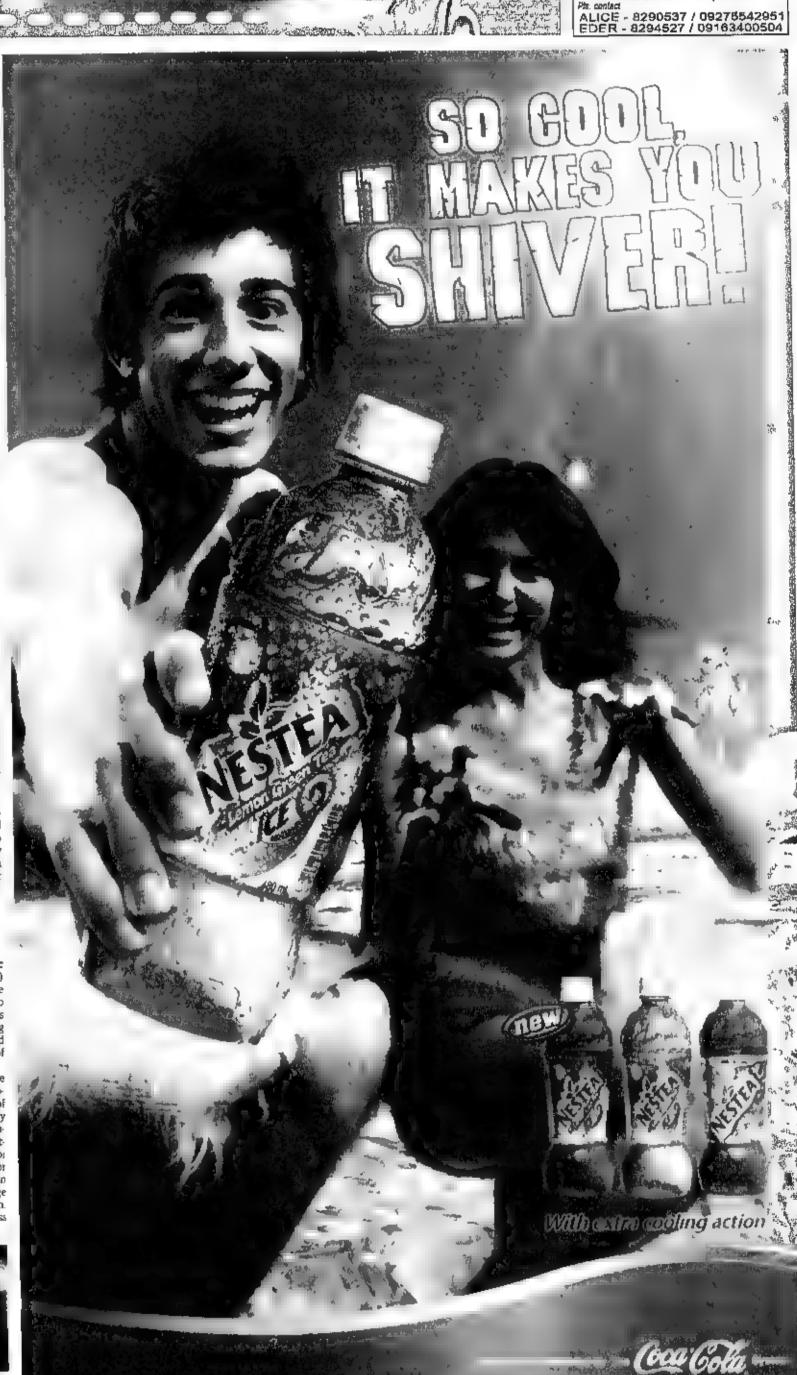
S William H. Macy, Alec Baldwin

In Wayne Kramer's cautionary romantic drama, Bernie Loots' (William H. Macy) string of bad luck comes to an end when he meets and faus in love with Natalie Belisano (Maria Belio) But, one man's "lady luck" is another man's 1058, and Las Vegas gambling lord, Sheily Kaplow (the Oscar nominated Alec Ba.dwin), snrt pleased at the prospect of losing Bernie's anusua, "service."

You see, Loors is Shelly's most effective "cooler"-which is gambling argon for a professional "loser," who makes the rounds of casinos and gambling havens to end a lucky customer's winning streak. Powerfu, and cautionary, the movie is more than just a cinematic statement about finding love in the dregs of a rubless society. It's also a showcase for great performances: Macy, Bel.o and Baidwin (in the scariest role of his career) exchange thespic barbs as their characters dream. scheme and tumble in pursuit of listless luck-and elusive love.



MYLES AND FRANCO, Obligation to family and country takes precedence.



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PHILIPPINE DARLY INCURRER **** SATURDAYSpecial



THE BABAOS. Learning to forgive is the first step to embracing the light.

By Christine Bersola-Babao

ORE THAN JUST A vacation, Holy Week is always a time for renewal of faith for me. It is also an opportunity for self reflection. The past year saw my family weathering trials, especially in terms of career, and I personally longed for momentary escape from the frustrations.

Colony

This year, we spent Holy Week us Macau. My good friend, Arlina Onglao, once mysted me and my husband, Julius, to expenence a Macau pilgrimage, owing to the many churches in this former Portuguese colony

It was God's will that again brought us to Macau last Holy Week, where the unexpected happened to

We arrived on a Monday evening Before I slept, I resumed reading the bestseller, "Your Best Life Now" by Joer Osteen. When I flipped the pages at random, it opened to page 143.

Emotional Wounds

These words veritably jumped our of the first page "You dare not use your past as an excuse for your un willingness to forgive somebody."

The next page read: "Don't hold on to feelings of butterness and resentment and let them poison your future. Forgive the people who did you wrong. You will never be truly happy as long as you harbor bitterness in your heart . When you dwell on painful experiences, your emotions will so right back there with you-and you feel the pain in the present."

I was in tears. God was speaking to me through those words. From that moment on, I knew that this wasn't going to be just another Holy Week for me.

Façade

The first thing we did on Holy Tuesday was to visit the Ruins of St. Paul's (the church was built by Jesuits in 1602 and was destroyed by fire in 1835, except for its stone façade)

Behind the ruins was the crypt where the bones of Japan's Christian martyrs lay inside special glass enciosures. A simple cross adorned the rop

The chapter's title was "Letting Go of of the boulders. I threw a coin for my own prayer-wish

SATURDAY,

APRIL 22, 2006

We walked to the Church of St. Anthony (Julius and I are devotees, that's why we named our daughter, Antonia) This church stands on the site of a chapet founded in 1558

Footsteps

On the way to the church I walked with heavy footsteps, but I knew that it was really the unhappiness in my heart that was weighing me down.

You see, it has been half a decade that I've been carrying an emotional burden: There's this person whom I could not forgive for something she did to me-consciously or unconsciously-which altered the course of my career This person "stole" the opportunity for me to make it big. She caused me so much pain, and I could not get over the experience. My resentment toward her only increased through the years.

Then, I resorted to the "victim" mentanty I wondered why, careerwise, I wasn't being treated fairly, why I was constantly being sidelined. Joel Osteen aptly described what I was gomg through. In his book he called it

MIRACLE A2-3

Shelter

FR-18 & APPROVED W/O CUTS!

NEED SHELTER from the scotching heat of material existence. Its intense hear brings thirst, weakness, dryness and longing for relief

Some days are full of happiness, some days distress. They bring so much confusion and frustration.

ITRCB

Jagad dhaswarupananda Paramahamsa has an accurate analysis: The best lessons pale are not necessarily learned in the classroom, but in the playground-like riding the seesaw Sometimes

CRAWLING WITH FEAR. CREEPING WITH HORROR.

GET READY FOR SLIME TIME!

SLITHER

BATCH ITAT THE FOLLOWING CINEMAS

you're up,

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inder your sking

to take over the world.

Lotus POND R ValenciaL and S Bismark sometimes

you're down. We can't ai-Ways Wid

How do we transcend the duality of life, the aps and downs, the happiness and sadness? Wise men say, "When you are happy, turn to the Supreme Beng. When you're sad, turn to the Supreme Friend

When you're healthy, chant His When Names. you're sick, do the same When things are good, or bad meditate and remember Him "

Victory

Whether you're up or down, our Friend will always be there The Bhagavad-gita states, "A saintly person does not ravel when he is glorified in victory, and neither does he worry about defeat

An intelligent person does not focus on success or fa:. ure, heat or co.d and the ups and downs of relationships. He stays on a platform that transcends changing situations.

Focus

The mind wants us to focus on things that, make us happy sadfriends, unfaithful partners, etc. We con-stantly flow in the stream of materia existence...

But, if we hold on to the Supreme Being, we are shown what rea, existence 15 -- a constant condition that defies change. Taking sheater in

God is like being in the same place while change things around you,

'Miracle' in Macau

From page A2-2

"bitterness taking root."

Was it plan stubbornness for me not to accept the reality that I chose a profession defined by cutthroat competition? That I was simply not cut out for this kind of business? Yet, I have managed to survive for 16 years-even without fully understanding the complex dynamics of the game.

Discontent

is the root of my discontent caused by my unrelenting passion to share? Yet, the opportunities are few and far between. It always goes back to that chapter in my life when I wrestled with the stu-dio system and lost—when the world was almost at my feet, and then, the doors suddenly slammed shut. I attributed this to the series of unitortunate circumstances brought about by this person whom I was anwilling to forgive.

Then, an insightful statement power to pull out the thoms. on page 160 of Joel Osteen's book hit me: "When we hold on to porson from our past, we only hurt ourselves. We need to forgive, so we can be free."

Time to move on

I was crying when Julius told me that it was, indeed, time to move on-that it was-time to forgive not only that person but also 🚐 two of my close friends, who betrayed me. He told me: "Kung si" Kristo nga nagawang mag-patawad ng lanat ng tao sa mando, ano pa kaya 'yung sa iyo na tationg too lang?"

That was it That was-all Ineeded to read-and hear.

Going back to my long walk to the Church of St. Anthony, I felt the weight in my heart, because the thorns were stili there. In my mind I was already trying to discard the past. But, I knew it had to take a lot of will

Darkest moments

But you know how God makes you see the light in your darkest moments? As I was approaching the church, I reminded myse f of the behaf that when it is your first time to visit a church, you say a prayer or make a wish as you or ter its doors

ter its doors

The homent I stepped in, I closed my eyes, held my breath and prayed. "Lord please, help me to forgive her. I want to move on. And, almost instantly, it was as if a ray of light passed through my body. I knew that it was God's answer to my prayer. The time has come to forgive.

Inside the church, I lit a candle and continued to pray to the Lord and to St Anthony, I asked forgiveness for succumbing to human frailty-pride was my weak-

TINTIN (WITH DAUGHTER, ANTONIA). No true happiness with bitterness in your heart.

ness. I asked the Lord for more time to heal my wounds, I thanked Him for helping me take the first step in the healing process. The wounds are still there, but in time, they, too, will hear

Such was the personal "miracle" [experienced in Macau

I was embraced by the Light when I took the first step to for

(Contact Arima at joinjourneys@gmail.com or email me at christmebabao@gmail.com

Rita...

From page A2-4

talk about filmdom's sex strens. I never comprehended what their qualities were, however. For example, they said Theda Bara was one. I won dered why someone who looked like that was considered desirable. To my young mind, Mae West looked fat, old and rather grotesque!

Gioria Swanson looked funny and overly made-up I realized that Rita Hayworth was deemed sexy, but the audience cailed her names when she appeared on the screen. Instead, I appreciated Ingrid Bergman in "St. Joan" because she looked ethereal

So, what was considered sexy then? Greta Garbo was appreciated by older men, but I found her thin, angular and co.d Tappremated girl next-door types like June Allyson and Ann Blyth. I was also taken by the androgynous mermaid, Esther

Contrast

I didn't understand what "sex siren" meant, because Hollywood standards of-ten seemed in direct contrast to Philippine values If these blondes and sex sirens were really so desirable, how come the Lono audience called them names when they appeared on the screen? I sometimes expected these much maligned women to answer back.

When I reached my teens, I came to know other sex symbols. In Philippine cinema, there were men grabbers like Carol Varga and Rosa Rosal. I wondered why critics

sang their praises, moviegoers while booed them Men whistled when they entered a scene but women frowned at them.

Rosa was forlowed by the likes of Zeny Zabala and Belia Flores, both of whom p_sayed stereutypical socia climbing gold-dig

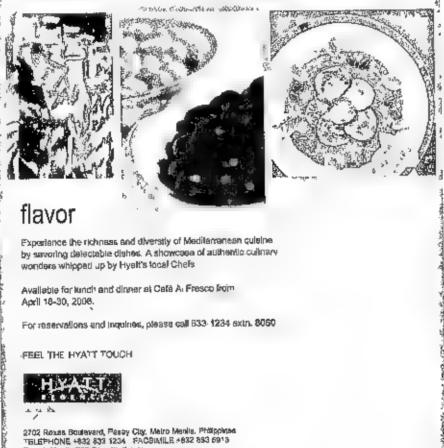
Why, they were everything a woman should not be but they had sexy ambition bod.es and the come-hither looks) Usually, their eyebrows painted, were arched and ob-soprominent.

Antitheses

If the local antitheses of these vixens were prefty lasses like Mila dei Soi, Norma Blancaflor and Gloria Romero. Hollywood soon saw the blooming of g.onous beauties such teenage ike Ann Blyth and Elizabeth Taylor Beside Ann, Joan Evans .ooked peaked and painted, indeedl



WILLIAMS. Androgynous mermaid.





E-mail: Manife.F&B@hyaltinff.dohi







SATURDAYSpecial

Rita Hayworth, other sex symbols exuded stellar sass and class



BECAME A MOVIE fan early in my life. Since television had vet to become part of our household

By Behn Cermotes

entertaument, the family would all get into the car every night right after dinner.

Back seat

The car had a rumble seat, just like the vehicles in the movies of Mickey Rooney, in the back seat, Mickey and Judy Garland would

moon and croon, while I joined my parents and siblings its taching movies---whatever they were!

The family had been given a "family pass" by Don Teodoro Benedicto to Eagle Theater, where MGM musicals and epics were shown. To boot, the movies played for only two to three days, so between the offerings of Main, Palace and Eagle, we went to the movies practically

every nighti My elder sister, Rachel, would explain the movies to me if they were adult in theme. Since I was created like an adult, I got the

proper answers. So, when the lights were turned on after a showing of "Forever Amber," most of the audience at Palace Theater wondered why a second grader was witness to this "condemned" film, as the prudes labeled the Cornel Wilde and Linda Darnell starrer.

Questionable

The questionable scene took place inside a carriage. I knew what they were doing-although not in exact detail then.

ICE AGE 2

EIGHT BELOW

MTRCB GP 2 00 4 40 7 20 10 00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE

MTRC8 GP 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 UM



HAYWORTH. Audience called her names when she appeared on

But, I wasn't allowed to see "Outlaw," the controversia. Howard Hughes opus that leatured Jane Russetl.

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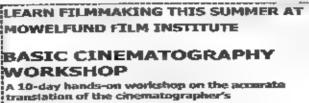
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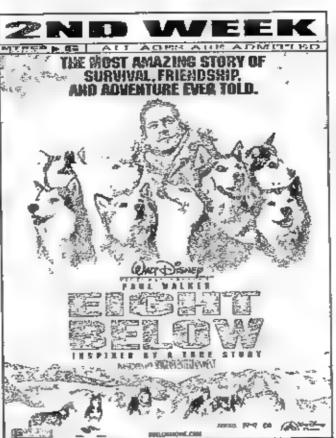
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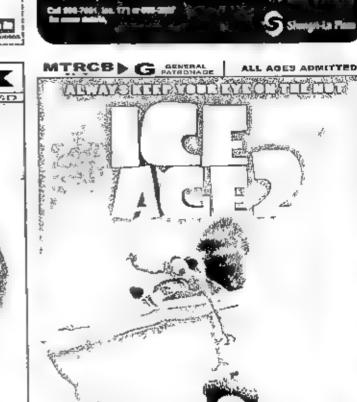
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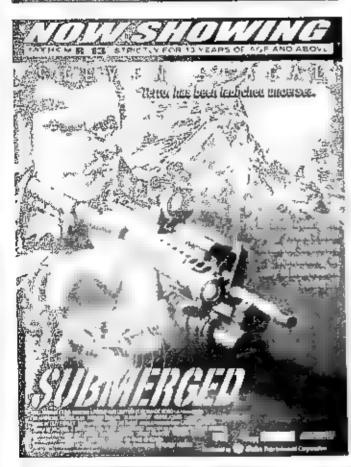
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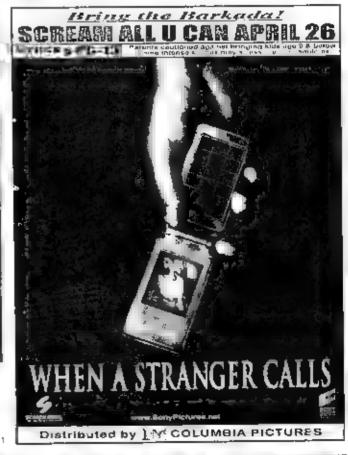
BIGGEST ANIMATION OF ALL TIME! BOX OFFICE GROSS ... and still sounting.





"Dennix Tritle gives a stallar performance and Jackyn Jose arrives later in the film to give her exect solety croppy performance yet." - over times, instance enter This a quality film trees Regal Entertainment and Rabyan Carles, Cong

or President of Committeering IV Group this is BATED EN PHE COLUMN EVALUATION TO ARE







m (Nacalia Verbeice), a beautiful Spanish womak - li about to be married to Harnaby (James D'Arcy), a caring, hy, but slightly haring Englishman. While out with friends on her "girls night out", the secounters a stranger who suddanly sparts a passion that has been sleeping within her. As our wedding date approaches, she finds herself surreguling to put this newcomer out of her mind, but his effect. on her keeps growing strenge to

SATURIDAY Special

Josh Lucas revs up box-office clout

JOSH LUCAS MADE WOMEN SWOON WHEN with Buddha. he figured in a three-way romance with Reese Witherspoon and Patrick Dempsey in "Sweet Home Alabama " Men cheered him on in the recent No. 1 box-office hit, "Giory Road."

This week, we interviewed the dashing actor about his latest film "Poseidon," his anusual artistic choices,

Show Biz Q&A

his co-stars, and the theater. It took Josh a couple of questions to h.t his stride, but when we started talking about the theater (he Rito P Asilo shared stellar billing with Jessica Lange and Christian Slater in last year's Broadway staging of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie"), he warmed

up. Soon, he was cracking jokes and anecdotes about his colorful career: What drew you to "Poseidon"? Didn't you find it risky to get involved in a movie that would naturally be compared to James

Cameron's "Titanic"? It was an initial concern But, what drew me to the film was director Wolfgang Petersen. ("The Perfect Storm," "Das Boot"), who told me he didn't want to do a remake of the 1972 movie. He said, "I want it to be the most in-

tense and claustrophobic flan I've ever made!" When you have a master fummaker telling you that, it's very easy to give in

Rejuctant hero

And I like how the roles are written: My character is a card shark, a hustler, and a reluctant hero. The characters are varied and anconventiona.

Your films range box-officefrom friendly rom-coms ("Sweet Home Alabama"), dark dramas ("The Deep End") to action ("Stealth") You even played a vil-lam in "Hulk." I heard that, as director, Petersen runs a "tight but relaxed" Was it the ship. experience same with Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind" Ang ("Hulk")?

What fascinates me about this job is the movies' ability to transform and mod perceptions, to bring-10.11 Committee (10) 1000 and getting something eise.

Substantial

One of the few things that's great about fame is its power to get small but substantial films made--like "Wonderland" or, my persona, favorite, "Undertow."

Great directors have two common denominators: One, they are collabora They like other tive people's opinions. Second, they are passionate wiidly and obsessive about what they do.

Wolfgang does run a night ship, but he is so love y in the way he operates his right ship. He's very much like a grandfatherly child you work harder because you like him so much!

For his part, Ang Lee is brilliantly creative--- a most sodiful, lovery person. Working with him

what you'd imagine a man-child would be. Yet.

Act now - before it's too late!

Ron Howard, on the other hand, is just like how to direct actors and to string interesting

LUCAS. His family moved 30 times before he turned 13.



Who hasn't seen many an adult's face pockmarked by ugly scars left by acue or pumples? Such eruptions usually start with adolescence which is when you should hegly fighting them, as they come.

Scar Your Son or Daughter-for life

James Arthur Torres

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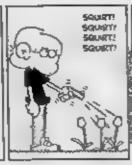
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BY JESS ABRERA



"...AND YOU WILL KNOW MY NAME IS THE LORD, WHEN I LAY MY VENGEANCE UPON THEE!"



BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN HOW ABOUT I WATER THE TUUPS FROM NOW ON? Yest 6 PICTION. ነርኒ,

OLD POLITICIANS STAND BACK



WALANG TUMATAYO SA RILES NG ROLLER COASTER!

MARVIN



BY P.M. JUNIOR BY TOM ARMSTRONG PUGAD BABOY NOONS BATA KASI S'YA E KUMABNOS 'YUNG PAGKAKA' PUKPOK NG LABAHA''' MALANG KINALAMAN SA KASO NG MGA BILANGGO ANG ALYAE NILA MUNG KAKOBA WO S ANO BAING KASO ANDS YAMS GINAMA NA COMMUTE SA UPE SENTENCE YUNG HATOL NA BITAY SA KAKOSA KONG SI PEKTONG PUSOT. DRUG TRAFFICKING KAGAYA NG KAKOSA KONG SI TONYONG NAO SY KAMAS. BRALL & BEKLONG E BOKIL & BEKLONG

BABY BLUES





ATOMO AND WEBOY

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WE LIVE IN AN MPERFECT WORLD-A DAMAGED TAINTED TARN SHED WORLD



WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT (+ ?/



BY LYRA GARCELLANO DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY. You have uncarmy financial skills. Even though you enjoy the good life, your demands are actually modest. You're a charming, clever conversationalist and a natural leader. You want to achieve your goals, but you're sensitive to the demands of others. Your cavalier wit hides your practical nature. Increased solitate will allow you to learn something important and valuable this year. Birthdafe of: Glen Campbell, musician, John Waters, director, Jack Nicholson, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A conversa-tion with a female friend might be significant to-day. Someone might need to cry on your shoulder, or vice

versa. Be prepared to offer sympathy and understanding.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Visit book stores, museums, gatleries or beautifu peris.
Your appreciation of
beauty is heightened today. You want to learn something new and different. Remember you're aiways curious!



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Try to go more than halfway when dealing

with others today.
You're going to have to
do this simply because the Moon is
opposite your sign. Seek out cooper-



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BY MANUX ABRERA

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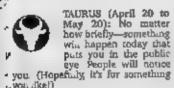
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CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Talk to others about shared responsabilines or jointly held property today. You will and it easy to reach an

or consensus with agreement others.







BY DANIEL SHELTON I GUESS ITS STILL A BIT EARLY FOR SPRING TRAINING PLOTCH

DAILY CROSSWORD

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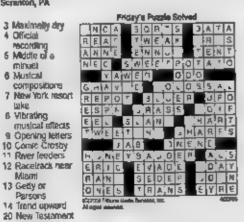
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By Josiah Brewerd Scrinton, PA

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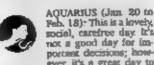


SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Now 21): Discussions with a parent or a family member are significant mday. Don't be rushed. Take time to give someone your full attention. (It's only re-



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Difficulties with shlings have occurred in recent years for your sign. You might patching up differences. (It's a wholesome approach.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Stay on top of your money scene today. This is not a good day to make purchases or buy things (other than food). Just look, don't spend

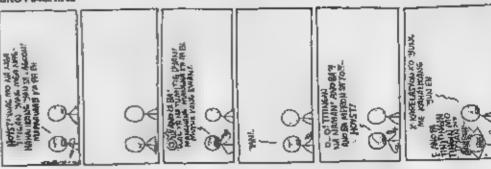


a book or writch a movie

Feb. 18): This is a lovely, social, carefree day it's not a good day for im-portant decisions; however, it's a great day to have fun and enjoy the company of others.

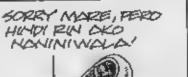
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need some peace and quiet today, Hide from others if you can. Why not do the crossword in this pa-per? (Perhaps you prefer Sudoku.) Then again, you might west to read

KIKO MACHINE

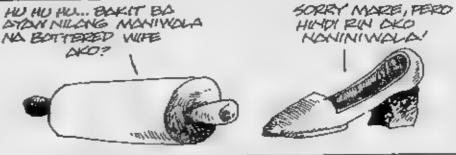




TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Four new stars make their mark on the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

RESH FROM HIS PER formance as the naughty Simon in "Nanny McPhee," child actor Thomas Sangster is appearing anew in the current romantic-action epic, "Tristan & Isolde." He plays the young Tristan (James Franco is his grown up counterpart).

Party.

Thomas' acting debut was in the 'BBC film, "The Adventures of Station Jim." He followed up with a lead role in the showtime original film, "Bobbie's Girl," and "The Miracle of the Cards." He then appeared in "Stig of the Dump" and in the action telefeature, "Daddy," where he won the best actor in a min. series award at the 2003 Monte Carlo Film Festiva.

Nomination

Thomas' first international feature film was "Love Actually." in which he piayed Liam Neeson's son. His performance garnered a Satellite Award nomination for best supporting actor.

For her part, Camilla Belle is currently starting as a babysitter-in-distress in "When A Stranger

Cails."
Director Simon West picked Camilla for the role over many young actresses because "she has this rare innocent quality that a lot of teenagers today don't have anymore,

prietta

because they grow up too fast."

Camilia found the role very challenging. She observes, "Jill is a very strong character and carries the film on her own. She goes on a very emotional journey—she has to save not just herself, but also the children put in her charge. It's a real survival story!"

On the TV screen, Nick Cannon is best known for being the producer and star of his own sketch-comedy variety show, "The Nick Cannon Show," on Nickelodeon. He's won the Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Award for favorite male TV actor.

Breakout hit

On the big screen, Nick's credits include "Monster House," "Shall We Dance"," and his breakout hit, "Drumane." His new film is the Miramax comedy, "Underclassmen," which he also wrote and executive-produced

He plays a cocky cop who is sent undercover as a student to investigate a murder on campus. What ensues is pure maybem, where upholding the

aw means disturbing the peace!

Like Nick, Emmy Rossum isn't a tyro at movie acting, having won the plum ingenue role of Christine in the film version of the hit musical, "Phantom of the Opera."

Proving that she isn't a one-film fluke, Rmily has quickly scored her follow-up assignment in the actionadventure film, "Posedon."

In the film, a luxury cruise ship capsizes and a small group of survivors find themselves unlikely allies in a battle for their lives. Emily plays the headstrong daughter of a former mayor of New York City (Kurt Russell).

Courage and stamina

Shooting the survival movie tested Emily's courage and stamina, due to the production's daunting physical requirements, like "swimming 20 feet underwater in a tight corridor, or being sling-shot across a three-story drop with just a harness " But, Emily passed those physical tests with flying colors!



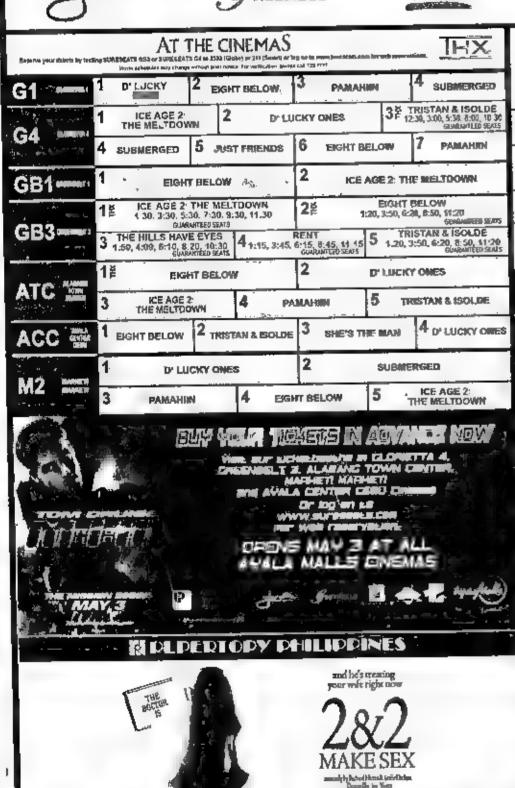




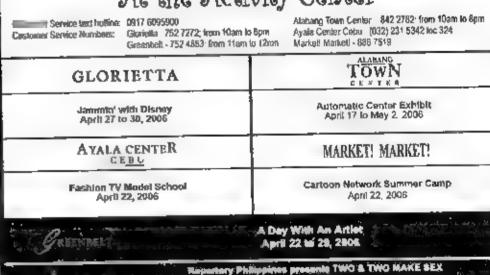
SANGSTER, ROSSUM AND BELLE. Topbill "Tristan & Isolde," "Poseidon" and "When A Stranger Calls," respectively.

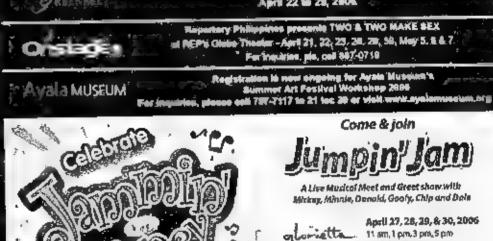


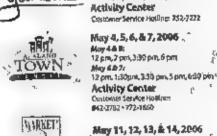


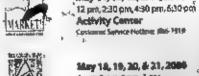














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SATURDAYSpecial

Catherine Zeta-Jones hams it up on 'SNL'

By Noelani Torre

MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH IS NO easy feat, and the fact that "Saturday Night Live" has been runrung for 31 years now must mean that they're doing something

Still, even a highly esteemed Emmy Award-winning television institution like "SNE" missteps once in a while, and the show has been getting more than its usual share of criticism in the past few

Process

Things seem to be getting better now that the show is we into its 31st season. Though some of the jokes and sketches may fall flat, you'd still prefer them to the juvenile schlock that passes for American troops in Iraq. Though

comedy on our own local TV screens. At least with "SNL," you know that thought is put into the

Breakthrough band

One of the season's better episodes thus far has been the one hosted by Catherine Zeta-Jones. It also featured the Scottish breakthrough band, Franz Ferdinand.

The show has more hits than misses. It helps that Zeta-Jones is an accomplished dancer and singer, and that the platinum-selling Franz Ferdinand is one of today's hottest bands.

The cold opening in this episode lampoons a Fox News coverage of President George W. Bush's "spontaneous chat" with



ZETA-JONES. Singing and dancing dynamo.

not screamingly funny, it's worth expect from the lovely and tala few chuckies and it gets the recvisite Bush-lambasting out of the

Zera-Jones' opening monologue is everything that you'd myself off coz I must confess/ ! still go home with Michael Douglasi

Sketch

She also appears in the show's first sketch, CNN's Newsnight with Aaron Brown, wherein she plays an earnest reporter out in the field, whose looks slowly deteriorate as her surroundings batter her

It's amusing to see her get uglier and ugher. But, the joke sn't able to drive a point since its writers apparently forgot to give it a punchline.

The pext sketch, where a dancer brings her new non-dancer boyfriend to a Bob Fosse dancers' party, is better. So is the Creighton Boys School sketch that features Zeta-Jones as the new scene-steal-

The real scene-stealer though is Rache, Dratch, who plays the suffering-badly-in-comparison Spanish teacher.

Weakest

As for the Weekend Update segment with Tina Pey and Amy Poehler, it is one of the show's weakest points.

Luckily, Fred Armisen makes an appearance as a blind comic called Pep Walters, who livens things up. Too bad they don't make him stay longer.

The episode's best moment is the Morgan Stanley commercial parody, wherein the stern father figure admonishing a reckless teen turns out to be the Morgan Stanley agent-now that's nothing less than inspired!

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Paul Anka performs at the Big Dome

PAUL ANKA WILL PERFORM IN T he wasn't interested in her any Did It My Way—Paul Anka, Live in Manila." The Viva-produced show will be held on May 14 and 15 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets are available at the Big Dome and at SM Tickemet outlets.

ented actress. It consists of a

singing and dancing "Chicago"-

ish number with the memorable

line "So, for the next hour and a

haif/ I make a fool of myself

Of Lebanese descent, Anka was born on July 30, 1941 in Canada. His first ambition was to become a lawyer or a journalist. He started to take music lessons when he was 12, and later competed in amateur singing coutests.

Composition

His first composition, Blau Wildebeeste Pontaine," was about an African town.

Armed with \$100 in his pocket borrowed from his father, he wrote four songs and went to Manhattan. One of them was "Diana."

He then auxilitioned at ABC-Paramount and was soon signed up for a recording contract.

"Diana" was a love song he wrote for the babysitter of his younger siblings. Diana was 18 years old and wanted nothing to do with Paul. She later changed her mind-but,

more! The song shot to No. 1 in

Paul was 17 years old and al-ready famous all over the world when he composed "Lonely Boy," a song be wrote for his mother, who died of liver disease.

Big crush

His song, "Puppy Love," was written for top teen star, Annette Punicello. Paul had a big crush on Annette, but he was told that what he fest for her was only puppy love.

Anka has written 900 songs, among them "You Are My Desting Don't Gamble with Love," "Crazy Love," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" and "Times of Your Life."

He composed songs for Tom Jones ("She's a Lady") and Frank Sinatra ("My Way," "Let Me Try Again"), and 130 of his songs have been recorded by other artists.

"My Way" was besed on the French song, "Comme d'Habitude." Paul bought the rights, wrote new lyrics and gave it to Sinatra.



ANKA. Wrote the lyrics to Frank Sinatra's classic, "My Way."

Josh Lucas revs up . . . Freem page A3-1

stories together.

Do you ever get star-struck by big co-stars like Robert Redford, Morgan Preeman, or Jennifer Lopez?

I always get extremely excited and honored when I work with big stars. But, I was truly star-struck only with two actors: Russell Crowe ("A Beautiful Mind") and Sean Penn ("The Weight of Water"). I want my work to be like theirs, so I sometimes compare myself

to them—which is not a very healthy thing to do! (laughs)

Would you advise your kids to take up acting? I read that you transferred a lot--30 times before

the age of 13t-as a kid. Why? I absolutely wouldn't advise this tob for my kids! This business is way too competitive and impredictable. It's full of crazy, neurotic, and very unhappy people. I love what I do, but

it's incredibly hard to work and thrive in its unhealthy environment.

It's true-my family moved a lot. If you want to create an actor, do that! (laughs) My parents were activists who did not believe in America's build-up of nuclear weapons. So, they moved from one community to another to urge people to spend more money on education rather than on nuclear power.

CANDY PANGILINAN IANUS DEL PRADO CARLA HUMPHRIES

POKWANG

SANDARA PARK

MIKKI VALDEZ JR VALENTIN Introducing: FRANZEN FAJARDO

EUGENE DOMINGO JOSEPH BITANGCOL



WENN V. DERAMAS



SATURDAYSpecial

'Empire' on Hallmark Channel

starring Jonathan Cake ("First Cabrera Santiago Knight"), ("Haven"), Dennis Haysbert ("24"), and Trudie Styler ("Friends"). The Hallmark Channel Hot Pick for April revolves

MONTAGE

around Oc-Caetavius, sar's 17-yearold nephew, who exults in the dicta-

tor's homecoming

But, on the 15th of March, Caesar is killed. General Marc Anthony believes himself the rightful successor, but Ceesar's dying wish has proclaimed the imperuous and inexperienced Octavius as his heir

Threatened by Marc Anthony, Octavius finds refuge in Tyrannus, a gtadiator sworn to protect and help him secure the throne. But, before they can even hope to succeed, they must first wrest power from Antony's devious grasp.

Premiering tomorrow at 9 p.m. for parts one and two, and on April 24, 10 a.m. for part three, "Empire" presents a tale of two men who come to learn the meaning of death-defying friendship and intimate betrayal.

James Bond on Star Movies

Every Saturday at 9 p.m., Star Movies screens "The Complete 007 Collection" of James Bond films. Schedule: April 22, "Moonraker" and "Licensed to Kill." April 29, "Never Say Never Again" and "Die Another Dax." May 6, "The World is Not Enough" and "From Russia With Love." May 13, "A View to A Kill" and "Live and Let Die." May 20, "Goldeneye" and "Dr. No." May 27, "The Man with the Golden Gun." June 3, "The Spy Who Loved Me" and "For Your Eyes Only" June 10, "Diamonds are Forever."

Kuh and Bobby

"The Music of The Platters and More" will have a repeat performance at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel tonight. The hit show topbills Kuh Ledesma and Bobby Soul of The Platters singing memorable tunes from the '50s and '60s. Cai. 750-8888.

'Constantine' on HBO

Keanu Reeves plays an irreverent anti-hero in "Constantine," the film on view on HBO at 8 p.m. tornorrow. The dark action-thriller is directed by



LEDESMA AND SOUL Successful tandem returns to Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar.



MADELA. Sings at SM Makati today. Prancis Lawrence.

Journeys of Faith pilgrimages

Arlina Ongiao's Journeys of Paith pilgrimage group has a full schedule of tours lined up for 2005: May 7 to 16, "Rediscovering Russia" travels through Moscow, Novgorod, and St. Petersburg, with optional trips to Medjugorje or Turkey, with Bishop Raul Martinez, DD

Sept. 5 to 18, "Enthralling Eastern Europe" covers Poland (Czestochowa, Krakew, Wadowice, Auschwitz, Wielieska), Czech Republic (Prague, Cesky Krumkov), Austria (Vienna) and Hungary (Budapest)

Sept. 9 to 21, "Incredible India and the Himalayas" visits Nepal (Rathmandu), Tibet (Lhasa), and India (Kashmir, Delhi), with optional extension to the Taj Mahal in Agra, Khajuraho and Varanasi up to Sept. 27

Oct. 16 to Nov. I., "From the Ancient to the Medieval World" rawers Turkey (Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Pamukkale, Kusadati, Izmir), Romania (Bucharest, Suceaux, Sightsoara, Brasou, Sinsia, Campina), with optional extension to Greece (Athens, KalambaSoumon), with Pr Re-

natri Jose Lopez, SSL. Oct. 29 to Nov. 6. *Greece and Turkey Cruise" sails through Italy (Venice, Barl), Greece (Katacolon, Olympia). Turkey (kzmir, Istanbul) and Crostia (Dubrovník)

Oct. 30 to Nov. 10, Following. Gospel Trail (A Holy Pilgrimage Land Concert) covers Jordan and Israel, with Renato Jose

Lopez, SSL Nov. 8 to 18, "Ancient Egypt" visits Cairo, Sinai, the Nile cruising from Larror to Aswan, and Abuu Simbel) Call Arlana or Rona at (632) 929-0144, 929-0155, (63) 917 814-8127, relefax (632) 426-7295, or email joinjourneys@gmail.com.

'Festivale Danze'

At 4:30 p.m. today, Enchanted Kingdom presents "Festivale Danze," a sturning parade replete with dance moves, musical grooves and fireworks. Also witness the grand opening of the theme park's newest ride, enspired by the movie, "Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom."

led Madela

Jed Madela's "Songs Rediscovered" album rour hits SM Makati at 5 p.m. today. The album has aiready been certified platinum.

Jimmy Pailon and Queen Latifah co-star in the buddy-action-corredy production, "Taxx," showing on Star Movies at 9 p.m. tomorrow.

Child wonder BJ "Tolits" Forbes performs at SM Bacoor today to pro-

more his "Tolits Dance Hirs" album,

Ballet at the Park

The La Union Dance Tutorial Services of San Fernando City is featured on Ballet at the Park at 6 p.m. today in "Alice in Wonderland at Iba Pa," a compilation of different dances with artistic direction by Edwin "Nonoy" Vicente.

Batanes photo safari

reach as you survey breathtaking view of a beachfront, where you can admure the sunset in all its glory.

Yes, such a place exists. And this is just one of the sites in Batanes that will seave you in awe. Rolling Hills was the chmax of our recent

Senses:

"(am not formally schooled in photog-But, raphy Batanes, where nature, people and culture stir the senses. these visual feasts will inspire you to take pictures.

"Mandy's morning huddles with 20 eager participants were very helpfut, Lessons as simple as You wil. not have a picture without light' or 'Do not cut where the joints meet, but below or above them' were some of the tips that were not only logical, but also ensured that the foundations of proper photography were being laid early on.

Breathtaking

"Batanes" breath taking scenery creates the perfect and memorable backdrop, All these elements facilitated experiential learning and, at the same ensured a time, uniquely enjoyable -Not adventure. bad for a first-timer like me "

... The second batch of our Batanes Photo Safari in scheduled from May 23 to 26. Call, 899-1767, or 0916 706-0130, or drop by Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia: Hel-Air II, Street, Makati City.



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Bernie Lootz (Macy) is the unjuditiest man in Les Vegas. Berne Lootz (Macry Is the unupoxies) man in Les vegas. His bad lock is contargous Wabriang to knock out their highest rolliers, the Shangaria Hotel and Casino one of the tint mobilium cashos in fown, decodes to use Berne as a "Cooter to reverse their sucky streaks. The scheme goes well units Berner falls in love with a cockdax wastress. Notable (Betle) who becomes het fady lock", much to the slarm of the pasmo's crooked director (Betleviñ), who is dead set the cashing as white a part to the regions and Bernes. m pulling an end to the remance and Barnie s

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SATURDAYSpecial

Katie Couric takes the primetime plunge

By Nestor U. Torre

MOST MORNINGS, WE START our viewing day with the "Today" show on the Second Avenue channel. One of the show's main attractions is its host, Katie Courie, whose combination of intelligence, warmth, genuine interest and gift of gab makes her a big winner in our book.

Obviously, millions of other viewers agree, since Katie has

I: PRIMARUM.

2: Manager of Loren

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been hosting the "Today" show she take the plunge?

She slid. A few days later,

Recently, however, reports began circulating that she was thinking of moving on to something else.

Correspondent

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AND MARKETHARIAN ALLER

METROPOLIS

6 September of A

Everyday Family Day at Stárhalls!

In fact, she had been offered a solo anchorperson news slot by CBS, with additional work as correspondent on the network's newsmagazine programs. Would

Couric announced on the "Today" show that she was indeed uprooting berself and moving to CBS News starting next month.

She was sad to leave her "Today" family, but the solo anchorperson position would be a high point in any TV person's career, and was especially prized—and rare—for a female on-camera tal-

An insider reveals that Katte gets paid something like \$15 million a year for co-hosting the "Today" show with Matt Lauer (who gets \$13 million), so it's likely that she'll be paid even more at

In addition, she will no longer have to wake up at 4 a.m. to get to the studio each weekday morning.-Nice work, if you can get it!

Morning show

These days, Katie is winding up her hosting chores on NBC's morning show-but, without the

soggily and loudly tearful good- has a husky byes we usually witness on local speaking TV when a regular cast member, leaves a show. How's that for professionalism and class?

When Kane announced her decision to move to CBS, viewers naturally wondered who would take her place. Her job was so prized that practically everybody wanted it.

Wirmer

Our bet was "Today"s newsreader, Ann Curry, another fine TV talent. But, when the smoke cleared, the winner was-Mered-Wh Vierra.

She was an unknown factor in our book, but when we caught a TV interview with her, we sensed that the "Today" bosses had made the right choice

Meredith is younger than Katie, but she conjures up pretty much the same combination of brains, heart and spontaneity that has made Couric such a TV years.—And she

voice to die

trust that Meredith will step into Katie's shoes the "Today"

with works great aplomb. And we wish Katse the very best as she embarks on her plum CBS News as-

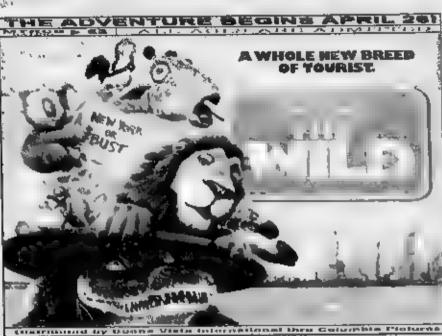
signment. Now, if only we can get to watch her news program on cable TV

COURTC. Combination of brains, heart and spontaneity has made her a TV score

CARCOTURE BY ALBERT ROCKIGUEZ



Batanes photo safari



TWENTY ONE PHOTO ENTHUSIASTS took the Asian Spirit flight to Bazanes last April 13. In Sabtang, I realized that part of the group joined the photo safari only to see the place, and were equipped with digital point-and-shoot camera. Nevertheless, all the participants bonded together at the end of the

Participants included Dr. Vivian Gonzaies, Ralph Diaz, sisters Roxy Mendoza-Mausuda and lom MenSTREET SMART Mandy Navasero

doza, May Bernarte, Sarah Encabo, Atty. Alma Logronio, Atty. Noel Liok, Alex Wong, Ronnie Pernandez, Blessings Ajero, Dr. Alisa Bernan, Dr. Mon-

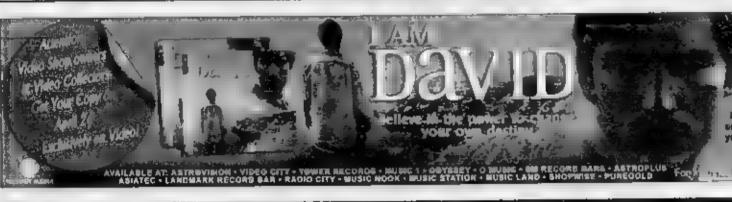
serrat Velasquez, Rosan Cruz, Leanna Romulo, Bettina Go, Glen Carberry, Clem dela Cruz, Goidie Martinez and my assistant, Amanda.

Here is an excerpt from Ionl V. Mendoza's essay, "My Batanes"

"Imagine having an overwhelming color of green enveloping you while trekking the undulating, high but narrow slopes, and feeling the strong, cool Pacific breeze on your face to BATANES/A3-5



FEISTY workshop participants strike a pose.



Ask David" is adapted from Anna Holm's internationally acclaimed novel North to Freedom. It is the story of a 12-year-old boy, David (Ben Tibber), who escapes a Communist concentration camp with little more than a compass, a sealed letter, a loaf of ead, and Instructions to carry the letter to Copenhagen, Denmark. "I Am David" addresses the cruettes, politice, and suffering of warfare while celebrating the residence of youth and the unbreakable spirit of a child.

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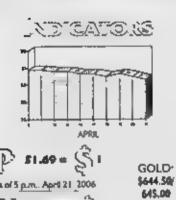
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Peso falls to 2-month low of 51.71 to \$1

Oil firms increase demand for dollars



Kong, April 20, 2006

By Dorls C. Dumiso

A DOUBLE WHAMMY FROM RECORD-HIGH global oil prices and declining local interest rates dragged the peso to a two-month low of 51.71 to a dollar yesterday after peaking at 50.88 this year.

The socal currency shed 19.5 centavos to close at 51.69, or near the day's low, from Thursday's 51.495 against the greenback and would have fallen deeper if not for some intervention from the Bangko Sentral ng Plap-

\$70 a berrei mark in recent days.

At the same time, shrinking differentials between benchmark

nies were scrambling for US dollars

in anticipation of higher import bills

as global oil prices rose past the

king at 50.88 this year.

It was the peso's weakest finish since ending at 51.96 to \$1 last Feb. 27. The strongest level of interest rates here and abroad likewise aggravated the selidown on the local currency.

As of the last government auction, the believether 91 day treasury bill rate had slid to 5.25 per-

It was the peso's weakest finish since ending at 51.96 to \$1 last Feb. 27. The strongest level of 50.88 seen to far this year was hit last March 7.

Currency traders said oil compa-

Some traders estimated that the BSP had sold at least \$20 milition at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday, cushioning the peso's fall.

After easing from hurricane Katrina-related highs, crude oil prices are surging due to rising geopolatical uncertainties in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq as well as threats to oil production in Nigeria. With crude oil consumption lower than expected in 2005, prices are being increas-

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gov't borrowings surge to P285B /B2

Disclose buyer, SEC tells GSIS

Managine & World College Colle



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THE NATIONAL GOVERN-

ment's borrowings in the first

quarter of the year reached

P285 27, rising by 57 24 per-cent compared with the

P181 42 billion borrowed dur-

ing the same period last year, as

fiscal authorities decided to

borrow bulk of its financing re-

quirement for the whole of

year was intended to plug the

government's budget deficit and

Documents from the De-

parament of Finance showed

that of the gross borrowings

for the first quarter, foreign

accounted

2006 early in the year

pay maturing obugations

Stocks near 7-year high; PLDT leads rally

cent to hit a near seven-year high , yesterday as investors took posinons in the major companies expected to report strong first quarter earnings, dealers said.

The release of better-than-expected budget deficit figures for the same period also afted sentiment, they said.

The composite index ended at the day's high, up 20.21 points at 2,262 97 after touching a low of 2,227 65 This was the best finish since Aug. 24, 1999 when it ended at 2,265 31. Volume was 4.79. billion shares worth P1.87 billion.

The broader au shares index advanced 11 68 points to 1,394.49. Gamers led losers 51 to 45, with 54 stocks unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the rally, ending at

or 2.3 percent.

The market opened on a weak note as investors took profits on mining stocks as the gold price fell sharply, support then emerged for several of the majors.

"People have started to rotate funds by cashing in on mining chips and buying into blue chips that are expected to report solid growth," said Mark Alan Canazares of Citiseconline

He said this was helped by encouraging economic data, such as the government's announcement that the budget deficit in the firstquarter was P67.6 biason, well within the target of P71.8 billion.

Top-traded Ayala Land gained 25 centavos at P11 75 while its parent, Ayala Corp., was up P2.50 at P370.

1st quarter level up 57.24% By Michelle V. Remo

P115.02 billion, while local

Foreign borrowings are made up of official development assistance (ODA) from multilateral and bilatera, agencies—including the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International The P285.27 billion borrowed Cooperation—and of those acin the first three months of the quired through the sovere gn bond float made last January

In the January bond issue, comprising of dollar- and eurodenominated bonds, the government raised P110.534 billion. The remaining P4.49 billion worth of foreign habilities came in the form of ODAs.

Domestic borrowings are those sources contributed P170.25 sourced through the flotation of treasury bills, bonds and other

Gov't borrowings surge to P285B

government securities. Of the P285 27 billion borrowed during the first quarter, 61 percent or P175 54 bission was to pay maturing habilities. The remaining 39 percent, or P109 73 billion, was intended to help plug the expected P125-billion budget deficit for the whole of 2006.

The fact that the government already has P109 73 bimon in cash, it needs to raise only P15 27 biaton more to completely plug the expected budget deficit of P125 billion for the entire year.

The government's target of

reducing the deficit to only P125 billion this year is in line with the Arroyo administration's medium term program of wiping out the budget gap by

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said the government's strategy of frondoading a large part of its borrowing requirements for the whose year in the earlier months was intended to take advantage of low interest

The government plans to undemake another global bond issue before the end of this year to raise \$900 million to \$1 billion to help complete its 2006 financing requirement. On the domestic front, the Bureau of the Treasury auctions treasury bills and bonds every two weeks.



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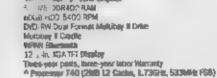
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BPI, HSBC to handle P1.3-B fund

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS approved the framework for the P1 3-billion ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund-in offspring of the new \$2-billion fund pooled by 11 central banks from East Asia and the Pacif ic to boost local currency bond markets with in the region.

The BSP announced yesterday that it has approved the trust deed constituting the new Philippine fund, a unit investment trust fund (UTTF) product that will invest in peso-denominated bonds issued by the government and quasi-government institutions.

UITFs are pooled investments that are put in high-grade securities depending on the Investment policy of the particular fund and are marked to market. These products are meant to replace the common trust funds, which are being phased out by the banking sector in compliance with the BSP's order

The BSP believes that the Asian Bond Fund 2 initiative, particularly the introduction of the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund, will contribute to efforts in developing the domestic capital market," the banking regulator said in a statement

In particular, the BSP expects the fund to play a catalytic role in promoting new products, enhancing market infrastructure as well as encouraging better fund management structures and practices," it added

The BSP said the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund contained several features not found in other UTTP products, including the separation of fund management and trustee roles in line with the principle of check-and-balance.

The responsibility of the fund manager will be to grow the fund and meet the investment objectives stated in the trust deed while the function of the trustee will be to safeguard the rights and interest of the investors," the BSP said.

"By separating the roles, the trustee can independently check the compliance of the fund manager to the provisions of the trust deed," it added.

As a result of the separation of the fund management and trustee functions, the trustee is allowed to act as custodian of the fund.

The Avalus' Bank of the Phinppine Islands was mandated as the fund manager and distribution and marketing agent while HSBC Lid, will be the trustee and custodian.

"It will be a passively managed fund designed to track the Boxx ABF Philippines Bond index," the BSP said.

The fund also incorporates the establishment of a supervisory committee as an additional mechanism for good governance. The committee is an oversight body that will represent the interest of the unit holders.

The Philippine share was meager compared to the \$2-billion total ABF2 size or even the BSP's own fund contribution of \$100 miltion (PS billion), but the allocation could rise significantly when the sovereign credit-rating improves.

Peso falls ... From page Bi

ingly driven by concerns about future supply, with the International Energy Agency assessing both upstream and downstream investment to be significantly below desirable levels,

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines and treasurer at BDO Private Bank, said he was personally not worried about skyrocketing oil prices, believing that the uptrend would not be sustainable despite the turnoil in some developing ail-producing countries.

"The hedge funds have become realty big investors and when they decide to invest in a specific asset class, they really move the prices. They move like herds. They invest in one asset class and everyone follows," Hilado said

He said these hedge funds were not making much money our of interest rate trading plays, especially with the flat yield curves in the United States, and were thus pouncing on commodutes like oil to get better returns

*But at certain levels, the high oil prices will reduce demand as it encourages people to look for alternative technology and conserving use of fuel," Hilado said.

BUSINESS

PNOC-EC releases dividends

State-run firm makes payout for the first time in 5 years

By Bizabeth L. Sanchez

MANILA MINING CORP YESTERDAY claimed that it did not misrepresent it self when it said that the government had renewed its exploration permit

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Manila Mining assistant corporate secretary Odette Javier said the company's disclosures in connection with the renewal of its exploration permit for the Kalayaan gold field in Sungao del Norte were "factualy and legally correct "

Javier said the first renewal of its exploration permit, EP-XIII-014 was signed tast Nov 30 by Department of Environment and Natural Resources assistant secretary and Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Jeremias Donno, who is the official authorized under DENR Memorandum Order No. 2003-46 to sign renewals of explo-

ration permits. Cosigning and agreeing to the terms of the permit was Manila Mining representative and lawyer Pablo Ayson.

Manila Mining claims

exploration permit is legal

Javier added that the permit renewal document was forwarded to DENR secretary Angelo Reyes "for his notation."

"We had not represented that Secretary Reyes hunself approved the permit," Javier said. "Under the cited applicable DENR regulation, the ap-proval of the MGB director for the secretary is sufficient."

Reyes on Thursday demed baving approved the renewal of the exploration permit of Manila Mining.

Saying that the company's claims misled investors, Reyes said in a statement that he has formally asked Securities and Exchange Commission chair Fe Barin to probe Manila Mining and to file the necessary cases against the By Abigail L. Ho THE STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE NA-

tional Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) will be releasing P20 million in stockholders' dividends for the first time in five years.

The payout is ten times more than the

P2 million which the PNOC-BC released m 1999, the last year the firm made a dividend payout.

The state firm's dividends for 2005 represented 50 percent of its unrestricted retained earnings amounting to P40 million. These earnings took into account deficits incurred the year

In a statement, PNOC-EC noted that this year's dividend payout would be made on the back of strong 2005 earnmgs, with net income soaring 450 per-

cent to P2.8 billion from P568 million in

It attributed the buge profit rise to high oil and gas prices, as well as the increased production volume of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project off Panawan.

PNOC-EC holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya gas find. The remaining 90 percent is evenly divided between Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Malampaya LLG.

The state firm last year chalked up P6.7 billion in revenue, a 49-percent rise from 2004's P4.5 billion.

The bulk of this amount came from the Malampaya proceeds, which reached close to P5. 1 billion in 2005.

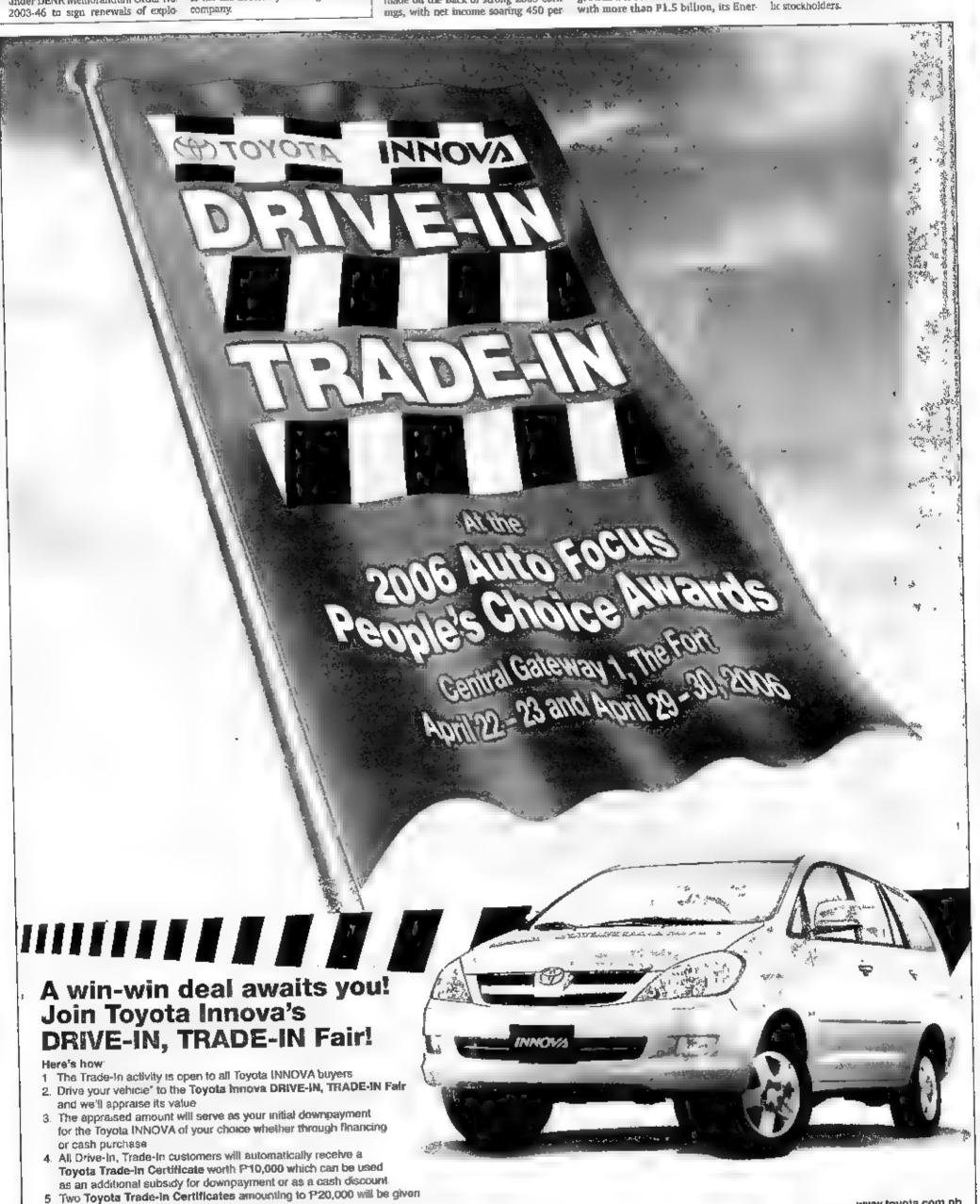
Also contributing to the revenue growth were PNOC-EC's coal business with more than P1.5 billion, its Ener-

gy Supply Base in Batangas with P89 million, and the San Antonio Gas Power Plant in Isabela with P21 mil

"PNOC-EC has aggressively positioned itself in the forefront of petroleum exploration in the Philippines," the state firm had earlier said Its strong financial performance provides the company leverage as it pursues an intensified exploration program around the country."

The state firm currently holds stakes in various petroleum blocks off Palawan, Mindoro and Ragay Gulf. It is also preparing for the development of the Camago-Malampaya oil.eg

The government owns 99 78 percent of the state firm's shares of stock, with the remaining 0.22 percent held by pub-



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BUSINESS

Smart tightens grip on wireless broadband market

By Dexim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINES NOW HAS OVER 25,000 broadband wireless subscribers and will likely grow further after the country's largest wireless services provider consolidated its digerse products under one brand.

Yesterday, Smart Communications Inc. unveiled Smart Bro as the new brand for its wireless broadband of fering, marking a move from its earlier Smart WiFi brand which has received mixed reviews from early

Parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) will also be reselling Smart Bro in place of myDSL-W, its similar wireless broadband service brand.

available to subscribers starting tomorrow, and will be marketed with new promotional bundles.

Since it was introduced nationwide in September last year, wireless broadband has boosted Internet asage in the country.

The uptake in the service is most epparent in rural areas where information and communications technology infrastructure has been lacking," PLDT and Smart president Napoleon L. Nazareno said.

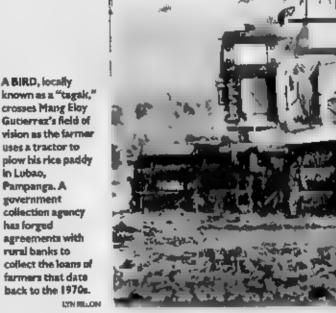
At the end of 2005, wireless broadband subscribers accounted for 22 percent of the total number of broadband subscribers of PLDT and Smart Broadband capacity and subscribers have been doubling every year since

The new product will be made 2002 and, by the end of 2005, the realisher to subscribers starting to number of broadband users of the PLDT group more than doubled to 114,000 from 48,000 as of end-2004.

The launch of Smart Bro highlights the PLDT group's strategy to provide a wide range of broadband connectivity solutions and dominate the market nationwide. Several other competitors also offer wireless broadband services on a smaller scale.

Smart has been able to rapidly roll out the service even in far-flung areas because it integrated many portions of the wireless broadband network with its existing GSM cellular network.

Smart Bro is a "fixed wireless solunon" to provide broadband Internet access, which rides on the nationwide cellular network of Smart.



collect the loans of farmers that date back to the 1970s. DA credit unit taps 10 banks

By Christine A. Gaylican

TEN RURAL BANKS AND one cooperative have been tapped by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) to coulect some P11 billion in loans acquired by farmers from the Department of Agriculture since the 1970s.

Rura, banks in the Bocos Region, Cagayan Region, Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas will proceed with the collection of the agricultural loans, representing 20 percent of the P5.5 billion in total receivables the government agency has incurred over the years

The ACPC has forged agreements with the following banks for the collection of agricultural loans: Rangmy Rural Bank, which has been tasked to collect P84 million; Rural Bank of Centrai Pangasinan, P60 million; DA Regional Office II Cooperative, P535 million; Gate Bank, P34 milhon; Rural Bank of San Marcelino, P17 million; Bataan Development Bank, P16 million, Producers Rurat Banking Corp., P64 million; Bangko Buena, P5 million; Rural Bank of Sibasom, P11 million, Rural Bank of Tibiao, P4 million; and Rural Bank of New

to collect Masagana '99 loans

The ACPC, according to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, has been tasked to consolidate all the receivables of the DA's agri-credit programs.

The Masagana 99 program was initiated in the early 1970s to encourage adoption of high yielding rice varieties. Private rural banks offered no-collateral tow-interest loans to small farmers, with the government guaranteeing 85 percent of any losses suffered

Up to this time some P5.5 billion of loans released by the DA under the program



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Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for sale:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	PRICE	REMARKS
1	Blk 3 Lot 6, Cicero St., BF Homes, Las Piñas City	House & ⊾ot	54	249	1,285,900.00	vacant
2	Bilt 1 Lot 13, BF Homes, Caloocan City	Lot only		240	792.000.00	Yacani
1	B7 L18, Sta. Monica Homes, Bo. Casmaya Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	314,600.00	For consolidation of TCT
4	B7 L19 & 20, Sta. Monica Homes, Bo. Caamaya, Mariveles, Salseo	House & Lot	33	100	403,700,00	with illegal occupants
5	63 L1, Batangas Drive cor Alley 1 Alfonso Homes, So. Labas, Sta. Rosa, Lagure	1 Slocey (RH)	34.05	714	445,500.00	with illegal occupants
6	B22 L2 Alfonso Drive, cor Rattan St., Alfonso Homes 1 Bo. Labers, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	2 Storey (RH)	73.16	71.4	764,000.00	with diegal occupants
7	B4 L4, Carrias Lane, Alfonso Homes 1, Bo, Labas, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	1 Storey (RH)	36	54	396,000.00	with illegal occupants
1	B27 L2, Calalagan Dv. cor Tindalo St., Alfonso Homes 1, Labas, Sta. Rosa, Jaguna	2 Storey (RH)	65.5	74.8	686,400.00	with illegal occupants
0	B2 L9, Laneite St., Progressive Villago 1, Bo. Tagapo, Sta. Rose, Laguna	1 Storey Bldg.	30	89	550,000.00	with illegal occupants
10		1 Storey (SA)	56	120	680,900.00	with illegal occupants
11	870 _17 Dasmarinas St., Ollyhomes Resorviše, Lencaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	1 Storey (SD)	36	76	315,700.00	wasant

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT \$96-04-25, \$87-31-46 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG., NO. 335 GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

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(PCI-April 22, 2004)

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We manage for best value ARTIPOLO CATY . LOT 1 - LOT & MAPROVEMENT LOT 12-LOT & IMPROVEMENT

Loi Area: 1,912.00 sqm. F/opr.Area: 514.00 sqm. Lei Area: \$3.00 sqm. Floor Area: \$2.00 sqm. LTB10 Senser: St. Comade Lot 14 Don Cates S. Terrary Ad., Valley Golf Subd. Toershomes, Takin 3 Minusure Bel Price 833,000 60 Manual 8 d Price 6,556,000 00 LOT 2 LOT & HAPROVEHENT Lot Area. 54.00 sqm. Floor Area. 59.90 sqm. Lot 15.80c. Cit Woodstow Alcor Arev. 87.08 squa Lot 28 BW 30 Copes VIII. Begong Kliyon Meamum Bul Prite 765,000.00

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Let 11 Bit 2 Perkreige Selele Ph. 5. 5M Gred mum Auf Price 1,486,888.88 DIS VACANTLOT

Lot Area 476.00 som Lot 23 8th 3 Parintige Estate Ph. Minimum 2nd Price 1,363,600 00

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Floor Area 120 00 squa. Lot 15 Bin 47 Floor 22.

LOCAPHE 682,00 som

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COT 13 - COLE MAPROVEMENT Towntones 3, Aguilor Ave Minerare 3id Pitte 1,163,000.00

Monteness Std Price 7,225,000.00

MAKATI COT 15 Cords tital Fibor Area, 48,17 squs. Jior Ug-12 Star Cooman Godominism 317 Gel Payet Ave Minimum Brd Proce 2,063,000.60 LOT 18 CONDO

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Ploor Artis: som Lpi 7 89:16 No. 1720 Escuela St. Minmum (2d Price 6,367,006.00

MALABON LOT 19 VACANT LOT Col Arms 454 00 sqrd

d.of 73 #18 Intercor M Ageing St., Abnorman Box Price 727,800.00 LOT 20 LOY & NAPROVEMENT Floor Area 116.00 squ (Lot 3) 69r 10) 31 R Dier & Aleryte Subd. Dampett

LOT 21 Condo Unit Ploor Area 36.20 sqm. Unit 514 57h Floor Ploor Toward

LOT 22 Lat & MPROVEMENT Lai Area 65.63 equi. Ficor Area 340.00 sem 1-B-30 1-Bridget # 620 G. Tunido Comercardo St Minimum Sig Prior 3,215,004.00 LOF 27 LOT & HAPROVEMENT Place Area, 80.00 sqrs. Lot 21-D-CH240) Int. 21

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Administra Bid Price 3,819,000.00 LOT 26 LOT WETH REPVTS Lot Area 443.06 sore Floor Area, 180.00 style Lor 7/8/k 101, Jihano St Kebayanan Sin Julii Almunum Bid Price 3,383,980.88

LOT 25 LEIT WITH IMPYTS Floor Area 36,00 syst Lot 32 81k 279 1717 F Visiting Near Clargeri Ste. Torolo Marrimum Sid Price 774,868.86

LOT 27 LOT & MAPROVEMENT Floor Area 50.00 som. 1561 Robing Hills Dr. Markey Hitle Sund Administra Bud Price. TEX.004.85

MUNTHELIFA CHY LOT 28 VACANTLOT

act Area: 373.00 sqrs. Sal 35-A-2-At 178 by, National mm Sul Price 2,417,000 00

LOT 29 CONDO UNIT & 12 50 Floor Arter 37.50 som Flort B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Blog. II, Glusson 14, Mesonan Bid Price . 1,911,896.56 LOT 30 LOT WITH IMPYES

Lot Area 582,00 square Floor Area: 238.00 parts. Lot 1-6-3-8-2-8, by Ol Page Po Minetian Bel Price \$236,000.00 St Say 13 muor Bid Prior 1,869 886.86 LOT 31 LOT WITH DIPYTS LOI G BY E. S.A. & S.S. Female Si Move-El Subd Movements
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col 33 VACAUTECT col Asia, 221.00 seps. col 23 80 7 frim Reci Onia, Savey 25, Brgy Marcelo Macrom Bid Prev. 875,000.00

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Lot 3, \$355 F Hosens St., Str. Menorana BM Price 4,841,000.00

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CLUEZON CTTY LOT 36 3-STOREY BLOG, ROOFDECK CARPORT Lot Arter 94.00 sqm. Place Arter 247.00 sqm 19815 48 Sto Nino St. 1981

Mirchard Biol Price . 1,505,000.00 COT ST. COMOO WHITS Unit'S 3 & 4, 3Rd Fit Hoort Of The City Condumenton, SQL Esquare Corner Eugenio Lapes 31, Begy, South Trimple (Movement Bet Price 3 192,008.98) LOT IN LOT & MPROVEMENT

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Management Bld Price 1,782,800 mg ID 41 OT A JAPROVEMENT Lot 3 Gueson St. Down Friedlich

Bogbeg, Novaliches

LOT Q COT & IMPROVEMENT Los Anta 384 89 som. Floor Area, 159.90 kg/s. Lot 13 Bilt. 33 Bullet St. Turnboli Bullet St. Falmoni I Subst. Horse

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Fisher Area 377,00 name. LOT 7 BM 132, #19 Maritian St. Minutes and Price 6,533,866.86

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Lof Area, 181-00 semi-Story Area Maddanta 31 Brgy Goldd Nevoln m 8xd Price 1,008,000.00 LOTS? Let & Improvement LOT Area 418 40 som Floor Area 267.09 stole. Let 8 Bir 23 N 11 Maximing 57.

(In Village Ollman

LOT SE VACANT OF LOC F-A JUSTING ST. COMM Arena/Grianza Subd. Brgy Histy Spirit, Capitol Duristal Monimum Brd Price 1,947,800.00 LOT 89 - Lot 8 Improvement JOI 248-8-7-8 # 44 Banks Albert Brgy, Boose Mornum the Price 1,823,000 00

Minimum Biol Proce - 0,790,890.00

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LDT 63 LOT & HAPROVEMENT

Meratco Village San John Namurum Ber Price 1,954,000.00

Let Amer 206 96 sqm. Floor Amer. 151.80 sqm. Let 12 69. 21 823 F/M St.

LOT BE VACANT LOT

COT 65 VACANTADI

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Lot Anto 500 NO squi. Floor Area 90 00 work.

Enlace) #35(85) Propto Rd.

flor 42-A Pesolo Lot

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VALENZUELA CITY

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LOT TO - VACANT LOT

Cet Arps: 212.00 pape. Let 25 ftts: 222 Physia II, North Fannish Coleton City Ministrat Bid Price: 782,888.40

by the banks are still unpaid

Performance will determine fate of refinery, says Shell

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp.'s robust performance last year may prompt it to upgrade its existing facilities and even expand its current production capacity through a fresh infusion.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said that while the firm still has not decided on whether to shut down or expand its refinery operations here, last year's strong performance would weigh heavily on its decision.

"Hopefully it's a sign of things to come," Chua said. "It helps in having a positive outcome for the refinery. We should have something more concrete towards the end of the year."

Shell last year recorded after-tax profits of P5.7 biliton, 102 percent better than its 22.84-billion performance the year before, despite slower gross sales.

Chua had earlier said that 2005 was indeed a good year for the refiner as it was able to deliver better returns as compared with past years.

'After many years of delivering return which are below market performance, 2005 saw a return on equity (appraisal basis) of 10.3 percent with our P5.7-billion net income after tax," he said

Chua attributed the oil firm's strong financal performance to positive relining margins, increasing export revenue, higher lubricant rales, and better performance of its in-station convenience stores

Since the downstream oil industry was deregulated in 1998, the company's average return on equity had been at a low 3.7 percent, while average return on capital emproyed stood at 4.2 percent

"Company officials are hoping that last year's financial turnaround could serve as an indication that Shell's Philippine operations can deliver fair and reasonable returns to its shareholders on a sustained basis," Shell had said in an eartier issued statement, "This could also strengthen Sheil's confidence in further investments in the downstream Philippine oil industry, where it has been an active player since 1914."

Chuz said that should the oil refiner decide to infuse additional cash into its Philippine operations, it would initially be earmarked for the upgrading of its factifies to enable it to produce Clenn Air Act-compliant fuels.

Petron Corp. recently invested around \$100 mitton for such facilities, and another \$300 million for new refinery units.

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BUSINESS

Toshiba pushes notebook line

Japanese firm enhances audio, video features of units

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEW OWNERS OF THE 1.2megawatt (MW) Loboc hydropower facility in Bohol and the 0.4-MW Cawayan hydroelectric power plant in Sorsogon will more than doubte the capacity of their plants.

According to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), Loboc owner Sta Clara International is eyeing the construction of two additional generators, one with a capacity of 1.2 MW and another with 0.5 MW, to take advantage of the abundant water supply.

The state agency quoted Sta. Clara president Micandro Linao as saying that while the Loboc plant was relatively small and in operation since 1957, its high capacity factor and the abundant water supply in the area made expansion possible.

Bohol, Sorsogon plant

expansions set

Since PSALM turned the plant over to Sta. Clara, plant capacity factor had gone up to 90 percent from 77 percent, resulting in electricity production of 9.5 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) from 8 million kWh.

Meanwhile, Cawayan owner Sorsogon Electric Cooperative II (Soreco II) will be undertaking the Lower Cawayan Hydro Development Project (CHEP II), which entailed the construction of a new 2.4-MW generating plant.

"Cawayan's expansion program is a manifestation of our earnest response to heed the call of the government's power development program and avoid the power shortage projected to hit the Luzon grid in 2007," PSALM quoted Soreco II general manager

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOSHIBA CORP'S UNIT ENGAGED IN making and selling notebook computers is preparing for a consolidation of the global market by combining audio and visua, features with high-tech computing.

Lim Kim Eng, manager of Tosniba's distribution business in Indonesia, indochina and the Philippines, said the company was aggressively promoting its audio video-equipped laptops in a bid to realize the long heralded convergence of

"I have heard about convergence as early as the mid-1990s but so little has happened so far," Lim said. "With our new notebooks, we are helping consumers realize this."

such as music and video players with information technology.

"One such product line up, the Qomsio AV Notebook PC, will usher in the time when all notebooks have audio-video playing capabilities," Lim said.

"We have launched this in the Philippine market at the start of 2006, which means that what is avaitable in Japan is what you have here in the local market," he added.

Toshiba's loca, partner, distribution firm Tricom Dyanamic Inc., yesterday announced that sales "have reach four digits" a month since the year started.

We have not been able to sell a thousand units a month last year," Tricom semor manager Roger A. Salvante said,

bringing together consumer products said Toshiba had never aimed to be the price leader but had strived to be known-

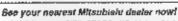
for quality products Lim said Toshiba's current thrust with its notebook lineup was to prepare for an expected consolidation of computer

"Some analysts are saying that of the six or so major players today, only two or three would remain after some mergers," Lim said.

He said Toshiba was positioning itself to be the one of the survivors by innovating with its product offerings.

We don't want to just give consumers a box with relatively little value," Lini said. "We are a maker and designer of notebooks and we ensure that consumers can enjoy the benefits of conver? gence by giving them quanty listening





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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Hepa B affects millions but gets little attention

PPROXIMATELY two billion people worldwide are infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and more than 350 million of them never recover from the infection.

These figures from the World Health Organization make HBV the most common infectious disease in the world today.

"In the Philippines, the prevasence of chronic HBV infection ranges from 5 percent to 16 percent, placing the country in the intermediate to high endemic region. Fifty-nine percent of cirrhosis cases and 82 percent of liver cancer cases in the country are caused by HBV infection," said David Elsaputra, general manager of Bristol-Myers Squibb Philippines.

"Yet chrome hepatitis B infection gets far less attention than say, HIV/AIDS, the bird flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome," he pointed out.

Chronic infection

An HBV infection is considered chronic if it lasts six months or longer. This happens when the



immune system can't fight off the virus, leading to serious illnesses such as liver failure, liver cancer. cirrhosis and even death.

"Increased education and awareness on the national sevel will help patients understand how they can prevent the transmission of HBV and seek appropriate care if they are already infected," said Elsaputra.

HSV, like HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is transmitted through contact with the blood and body fluids of an infected

It is spread through having unprotected sex with an infected person, sharing needles when taking illegal drugs, exposure to needles or sharps on the job (for medical workers) or from an in-

Bristol-Myers Souibb is untroduring in the country a drug for beparitis 8 which was recently approved by the Bureau of Food

Important drug

Elsaputra said that with the debut of entecavir, the Philippines may now be able to address more effectively the disease that has received little public attention.

With the approval of entecaviz, doctors here will now have an important new medication to treat chronic beparitis B," said El-

Entecavit, which is take orally, works by decreasing the amount of the HBV in the body.

Quick improvement

Elsaputra said that in a recent study on a form of chronic hepatytis called HBeAg-positive, Taiwanese researchers found that 72 percent of the 314 patients treated with entecavir showed improvement after 48 weeks of treatment.

"Perhaps the most promising aspect of entecavir therapy is the low rate of antiviral resistance. with HBV particles dropping to undetectable levels in 67 percent of the people in the entecavir group," Elsaputra said.

2-in-1 pill for diabetics

THE CONVENTIONAL TREAT ment for a multitype disease such as diabetes has been a specific drug for a specific class of diabetes. So it is not uncommon for diabetics to take more than one pill to combat the dis-

There is an emerging trend for treating diabetes, however, and it involves combination therapy drugs that give better results, particularly for diabetics with severe degrees of hypergiyoemia, or high blood

A study showed that combination therapy for diabetes allows for lower dosages of each drug, which lowers the risk of side effects compared to monotherapy or if multiple drugs were taken.

Better success rate

Dr. Josephine Carlos Raboce, an endocrinologist at the Makati Medical Center, said the 2-in-1 rabiet that combines metformin (which targets insulin resistance) and glibenclamide (which enhances insulin secretion) gets a better success rate

You have two smaller doses of two medicines (in one pill) instead of a big dose of just one

medicine. Your chances for adverse effects are less," said Raboca, a member of the Philippine Diabetes Association and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinolo-

In some patients, metformin could ingger gastric irritation, glibenclamide at higher doses could cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Better compliance

Raboca said the compliance rate would be much better for patients taking the combina-tion 2-m-1 pill than if they took merformin and glibenclamide

Jojo Lacomeo of Roche Philippines, one of the companies that offers the 2-in-1 metformin glibenclamide drug, said the combination drug was a "better alternative to taking two separate pills."

The adherence rate of patients has been higher," he said.

Raboca, however, stressed that a combination drug is not for all diabetics and the doctor is in the best position to determine if such therapy would work better for a patient

Raboca said 4.1 percent of Filipinos have diabetes, and the figure is expected to increase in the coming years.

Battling osteoporosis

A 50-YEAR-OLD READER WAS TOLD BY HER doctor that she has osteoporosis. She wants to know more about the disease, what causes it, and what can be done to prevent it.

Osteopososis, which strikes a lot of American women, is steadily on the rise in Asia. In fact, the World Osteoporosis Foundation estimates that by 2050, more than half of hip fractures will be in our region.

In Hong Kong, hip fractures have increased by 200 percent in the last three decades; in Japan, they increased 1.7 times from 1987 to 1997; in South Korea, four times from 1991 to 2001, and in Singapore, five times since the 1960s.

The disease can strike adults as young as 30, but is more common in those aged 60 or older.

Osteoporosis is a degenerative skeletal disease characterized by brittle bones and increased fractures, especially of the hip, vertebrae and wrist.

frontcally, increased life expectancy is contributing to the rise of osteoporosis, since bone density declines with age. Our diets are generally low in calcium, which is important for strong bones. Also, we tend to lead sedentary lifestyles, with little or no weight-bearing acdvides such as walking, carrying and lifting.

Diet and exercise can help prevent or deal with osteoporosis.

Weight-bearing exercises, where bones and muscles work against gravity, increase bone density. Exercise does not have to be expensive or fancy. Walking is a good example, and so are jogging, stair climbing, dancing or lifting weights (such as groceries)

Resistance exercises also improve muscle mass attached to the bone, which can provide more protection against fracture. Other activities like swimming and biking are not really



weight-bearing, so they do not directly prevent this disease. However, they are beneficial in other ways, such as improving balance, which reduces the risk of falls, the most common cause of fractures.

Calcium

Having a diet rich in calcium is important. Consume dairy foods such as milk, yogurt and cheese, green leafy vegetables such as bok choy, broccoli, Chinese cabbage flower leaves,



kale and spinach, spy-based foods such as spy milk and bean curds, and sweet potatoes and green beans. There are also calcium-fortified foods such as orange juice and cereal.

Vitamin D is also crucial and can be found in fortified dairy products, egg yolks, oily fish

Exposure to sunlight

Of course the easiest way to get Vitamin D is through exposure to sunlight. But do not

According to the Asian Food Information Centre in Singapore, "Vitamin D can be synthesized in the skin through direct exposure to simlight. The amount of vitamin D produced in the skin varies, depending on total exposure to UV light. Time of day, intensity of skin pigmentation, and the use of sunscreen have a direct impact on how much vitamin D the body is able to produce unernally, and for many, including some vitamin D-rich foods in the diet is a prudent precaution. For those who have little or no direct exposure to sunlight such as those who are housebound, or who cover most of their face and body for religious or cosmetic reasons, dietary sources of vitamin D are especially crucial."

Osteoporosis patients can also take supplements. Calcium supplements and low doses of vitamin D have been shown to reduce hip fracture in older women. Talk to your doctor before taking any supplements.

Can osteoporosis be prevented? As with all diseases, early prevention is best. Bone mass is greatest in our 20s, then starts to decline slowly. Through weight-bearing exercise and a proper diet, we can minimize our risks of getting this disease.

For more information, go to www.osteo-

Landmark spinal surgery performed

SURGEONS AT ST. LUKE'S MEDIcal Center recently implanted prosthetic discs in the cervical spine of a 32-year-old patient, a groundbreaking surgery that could help make verrebral disc replacement in the country as common as hip joint or knee replace-

Dr. Mario Ver. consultant at St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, headed the team that performed the procedure. It was the first artificial cervical disc surgery in the country and the first four-level total disc replacement in Southeast Asia

The team implanted artificial dises to replace four bulging or degenerative cervical discs that had been causing severe pain in the neck of patient Lawrence Cuevas.

The procedure took eight hours, and Cuevas was discharged from bospirar four days rater, completely relieved of the neck pain.

Tean now move my neck more freely, and the numbness on my left arm is gone," Cuevas raid.

Standard procedure

Ver is optimistic that as more of this kind of operation is performed, the technology will become standard surgical procedure fur disc problems not just in the cervical spine but in other ar-

eas of the spine as well.

Spinal discs are located between the blocks of bone in the vertebra. They act as "shock absorbers" and add mobility and flexibility to the spinal column. With age, they can flatten and develop cracks, causing pain.

The standard treatment is the removal of the damaged disc followed by "fusion." A wedge of bone, usually taken from the patient's hip, is inserted in the empty disc space and left to "fuse" with the vertebrae. While it reheves symptoms, the fused vertebrae can limit neck movement and increase wear and tear on adjacent disc levels

in the new procedure, the damaged disc is replaced with prosthesis, preventing further degeneration above and below the treated disc. The implant incorporates an elastic nucleus to provide shock absorption similar to the natural disc

"This operation is becoming the most popular surgical approach for patients with this kind of problem," said Ver. "Those who went through the operation recover much faster than those who underwent harvesting of the bone graft, which is the most painful site even several weeks after surgery."

Health implications of fasting

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

FASTING HAS LONG BEEN CONsidered a symbolic demonstration of religious devotion, although some may undertake it as an act of protest or a commitment to a political cause. Some do it for health reasons.

thinking it is an effective way to "cleanse" body of whatev-

er impurities that have accumulated There is a need to correct this

potentially fatal misconception. Pasting involves voluntary total food deprivation, with the person taking only water or luice. Doctors sometimes recommend brief fasting for half-a-day or less to rest the bowels in cases of diarrhea and in preparation

surgery. Some self-proclaimed health "gurus" recommend fasting for sev-

for some diagnostic tests or

eral days for its "cleansing effect."

But fasting for several days doesn't "cleanse" or rest the bowets, liver and other organs responsible for digestion and metabolism. In fact, prolonged fasting may cause changes in the acid-base and electrolyte balance of the body, and

relatively MEDICAL FILES "andic" due to the mxins produced by the fasting uself.

make the blood

Prone to infections

Prolonged fasting can be dangerous as it weakens the body's immune system, making one prone to infections

Proponents of fasting often evoke the "heating crisis" theory of naturopathy, claiming that people who fast may feel all sorts of symptoms because of the "poisons being expelled by the body." This is a ludicrous and risky theo-

One author, who is a proponear of prolonged fasting, says "Adverse symptoms should be expected and welcomed. The trains being discarded are saving you from more serious disease which will result if you keep them in your body too much longer... Don't try to stop these symptoms... These symptoms are part of a curing process, and don't try to cure a cure." Disregarding adverse symp-

come brought about by fasting has caused the death of some people. One patient who ignored the initial symptoms of fever, dizziness and weakness suddenly bracked our. The patient died in front of his 4-year-old daughter before reaching the hospital.

Muscle tissue breakdown

What happens to the body during fasting?

The body's nurritional requirements are met by the food we have just eaten and those saved

in the cells, liver and other organs and in the circulating blood. Since the level of sugar and outrients in the blood declines sharpty with fasting, a breakdown (catabolism) of muscle and other protein tissue for energy occurs.

Some consider it a form of "self-cannibalism," the by-produens of which (ammonia and urea) change the acidity of the blood. This produces weakness, fatigue, irritability, marked thust and an overall sick feeling.

Pasting does not cleanate the body. On the contrary, it loads the

body with metabolic toxins and sons should perhaps be charged decreases its capacity to excrete

Fasting also decreases the blood volume, bringing down blood pressure to critically low levels causing distriness and faint-

Severe potassium depletion can cause a fatal irregularity of the heart rhythm leading to sudden death.

Fasting is particularly dangerous for children, and believers in neuropathic medicine who make their children fast for health reawith child abuse

Prolonged fasting does not have any health benefit whattoever. If one is healthy and would like to fast due to religious conviction, short periods of 24-36 hours should not pose any serious adverse effects provided adequate hydration is maintained.

Children, the elderly, pregnant or loctating women, and those who have medical problems should not fast. They can show their religious fervor through oth-

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DISCLOSURES

NOTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. has re-elected Enrique K. Razon Jr. Eduardo J. Soriand, Jose C. Ibazeta, Stephen A. Paradies, Dante G. Santos, Andres S. Soriano Fil and Ernest K. Cuyegkeng as directors, and Octavio Victor R. Espiritu as independent director

THE BOARD of Directors of Universal Robins Corp. has declared a cash dividend of P0.54 per share for stockholders of record as of May 19, payable on June 15.

MARILA Water Co. Inc. will hold an analysts' briefing discussing the company's first quarter results on April 26, 2 p.m. at the South Room A & B, 25th floor, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City Compiled

Disclose buyer, SEC tells GSIS

By Bizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has asked the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to disclose the identity of the "mystery buyer" willing to buy the 34-percent block held by the group of mall tycoon Henry Sy in Equitable PCI Bank at P95 a share.

SEC chair Fe Barin confirmed yesterday that a letter was sent to GSIS president Winston Garcia by SEC Corporate Finance Department director Justina Callangan in line with the watchdog's disclosure rules.

Under the rules, the SEC has the power to compel companies to disclose material information that may affect movement of

company shares. The SEC rold the GSIS in its letter to disclose the identity of the

"unnamed buyer" within five days from receipt of the letter dated April 7

Barin said that in the meantime, the SEC continues to monitor all prices of stocks, including the movement of Equitable PCI

"The SEC, as its usual practice, is constantly monitoring all prices. The SEC is happy about the stock market's present trend, but it is closely monitoring an prices and those shares that are actively traded," Barin said.

Equitable PCI was unchanged at P71.50 yesterday, failing to ride with the main index's rise to a near seven-year high when it surged 20 points to close at 2,262.97

The SM Group, on the other hand, had said no binding offer has yet been made on its 34 percent block in Equitable PCI Bank.

Country	Limit:	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.812018	1 000000	51 3820
Japan	Yea	0.006911	0.00B511	0.4373
United Kingdom	Pound	1 444417	1 778880	91 3983
Hong Kong	Collar	0,104719	0.128962	5.6263
Switzerland	Franc	0.635134	0.782187	40. 893
Canada.	Dollar	0.712984	0.878040	45.1155
Singapore	Dollar	0.508242	0.625900	32 1600
Australia	Dollar	0.5986 2	0.737191	37.8783
Baturain	Dinar*	2 154065	2 652731	136,3026
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.2 6503	0.256624	13,6997
Braner	Dollar	0.505656	0.623947	32.0596
Indonesia	Rupada	0.000092	0.000113	0.0058
Thailand	Bahl	0.021471	0.026441	1 3586
UAE	Dirham	0.221108	0.277294	13,9910
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.231500	63,2769
Argentina	Pasa	0.265365	0.326797	16,7915
Brazil	Real	0.382587	0.471254	24,2140
Denmark	Kroner	0.134043	0.165074	8.4818
India	Rupee	0.018021	0.022193	1 1403
Malaysia	Ringolt	0.221833	0.273187	14.0369
Mexico	New Peso	0.073575	0.090608	4,6556
New Zeatand	Dollar	0.508655	0.626409	32,1861
Morway	Kroner	0.128121	0.157781	8,1079
Pakisian	Rupea	0.013538	0.016672	0.8566
South Africa	Dans F	0.133941	0.164948	8.4754
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.001054	0.0542
Sweden	Kroner*	0.107712	0.132647	6.8157
Syria	Pound	0.015643	0.019264	0,9898
Tanyan	Nt Dollar	0.025179	0.031008	1 5933
Venezuelta	Bolivar	9.000378	0.000466	0.0238



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Celebrating Spring at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Ber

EPREASE ALTERNATIO JAPANESIA CLID or made from only the best and fresh est ingradients front Japon. Throughout the years, Bushay has been collected for he well-leved and authoritic Japanese entitle by food cutosinours and has the med a loyal following both locally and in-investionally. This mount of April, Jacabay gives its parsons more received to

colcheste with its new mean creations.

Delighe your tasts bade in April with Bankay's "Spring" mone offerings to calchrate the abundance of the secson. Hearly seriond Japanese that Tomiyana gives you a sempling of blo Haruna To Shirano No Tempura (fisial) spring regutables with les fish) and the Hanami Bento, a huge bento planbir filled with exquisite Japanese fore uning varied colors of spring, priced at only PRSS++ per person. Accel intensity plete your moal, chef Tamiyama undi-charry blemona to add sweetness to his "Spring" Japanese wesen, like the



denout creations. Such item we only benkay is located at me loosy three prepared with every affect to do. Benkay is located at me loosy from light quests and assure patrons that had be open daily for funch, from our dishes are authentic enclaimed 1:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and for discharf Tomiyama as he described his mer, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. For including the restaurant countries.

As an added trust; dineral with a manager at \$67-3333 extension 3343 minimum food purchase of \$250 st. Advance dining reservation is not Benkay on April 16, will receive a comparing the second secon

Mouth watering 'Fisherman's Platter' at Café Miranda

treat awaits everyone at City Garden Suites' Café Miranda Restaurant this whole month of April. Discover the sumptuous "Fishermen's Planter" for only P250 net. Enjoy dirang, chat or drink with the bountful plate of "Fisherman's Platter" which includes Shrimp Scampi, Cala-Grilled Mahi-maha, Raised Mussels served with Lemon Butter sauce.

City Garden Suites - Martila

A GREAT MOUTH WATERING the "All Occasion Celebration" venue also offers complete party packages for wedding, baptismal, debut, kiddy party, est at reasonable prices. For as low as P6,250 net for 50 persons, the complete wedding package includes a delightful variety of delicious food from appenizer to dessert, overnight room accommodation with breakfast for two, wedding cake, guestbook, souvenus, flower arrangements, doves

with decorated cage, house wine for ceremonial toast torch parade, backdrop and signage, sound system, and free use of function room for 4

City Garden Suites - Manda is conveniently located at 1158 A. Mabara Street, Ermita, Market. For inquiries and reservations, contact (632) 536-1451 local 119 look for Portia or e-mail bqt_cgs@citygardenhotels.com.



Indulgence 2006

Casinos' Infulgence program, the mrum is a new feature for 2006. country's largest Filipino-owned Hotel chain is now gearing up for another round of pressrible offerings. "With the re-launch of Indulgence 2006, guests now have the chance to relive and enjoy delicious perks and generous discounts in any of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos across the country," delivers WHC corporate sales and marketing director Mr. Joey Bernardino.

WHC's indulgence program 2006 has an added perto It now includes in its emanding roster of properties their newest acquisition, the newly renovated and revamped Manila Pavision Hotel Indulgence is a celebration of 4

WITH THE OVERWHELMING hotels with 1 booklet," says guests in Waterfront Cebu City Instead of the 5+1 promo in previous years, this years' Indulgence will feature value for money and a straight up rate of just P10,000 each! Each bookiet entitles the hearer to 4 over-might room accommodations, translating to one over-night stary in any of the following hotel properties of their choice: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, both located in Cebu City; Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Manila Pavilion Hotel Moreover, the booklet also holds one additional voucher that entitles guests to a delicious complimentary buffet for one person for every 4 paying

UNO and in Manda Pavilion Hotel's newly re-opened Seasons.

Added value, convenience and affordability comes in the form of one pre-paid booklet containing 4 overnight privilege vouchers. And as if that weren't enough, each Hotel property throws in additional privileges indicated in their coupon. Privileges such as compumentary access to Cingym, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's newly-renovated Fitness Center, or a 50 percent discount on drinks at Boulvar, Martila Pavilion's cluc lounge in the Hotel lobby, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., plus a standard 10 percent off on all Hotel-owned restaurants, and so much more.

Indu gence 2006 bookiets success of Waterfront Hotels & Bernardino. Another added pre- Hotel & Casmo's UNO, Waterfront are limited in supply and its Airport Hotel & casino Mactan's vouchers are valid up to Dec 31 For inquiries and reservations, one may call the Water front Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032) 232-6888, Waterfron Airport Hotel Casino Mactan a (032) 340-4888, Manila Pavi. ion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 ah. Waterfront Insu ar Hotel Davaat (082) 233-2881. Interested parties may avail of Indulgence 2006 booklets at the Front Of fices and Business Centers o the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos, Man la Sales and Reservations Office and Ac credited Travel Agencies.

People, Events Products



MAJESTIC GAS AVAIL OF INSULAR LIFE'S SSIP stic Gas Inc. (MGI) a distributor of Caltex Liquelied Petroleum Gas to restaurants and hotels, recently availed of Insular Life's Salary Savings Insurance Program (SSIP). The SSIP is a convenient premium payment facility for employees or members of private and government entities who want to buy ordinary life insurance for themselves and their immediate family members and pay premiums on a monthly mode through salary deduction. Signing the agreement are: Insular Life Metro East regional manager assistant vice president Lauro G. Concepcion and MGI general manager Rodel B. Langi. Witnessing the signing of the agreement are (standing from left) MGI employee Rhandy Labao, New Life unit manager Rebecta C. Eustaquio Pasig Eagles District sales manager Laida V. Maquilan, MGI human resources and payroll officer juliet M. Lim, MGI employees Lydla G. Benosa and Eugeno B. Reyes, and B. New Life SSI specialists Filoreno L. Detabali and Jenne M. Maglaque. For information call 893-9683 or 017-305 i ext. 5048 and 3221 or log-on to www.insularille.com.ph.

Ka-Banahaw Clean-Up Crusade 2006

THE KABATAANG BINUKLOO NG KALIKASAN ENVIRONMENTAL MOUNtainsering society of the Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC-KABAN error), with the sanction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Protected Areas and Wedlife (PAWL) agency of DENR, will hold a clean-up drive and tree-planting activity around the mystic mountain of Mt. Banahaw on April 22-23, supporting its on-going rehabilitation program. Dubbed as "Ka-Banahaw Clean-Up Crusada 2006," this environmental activity will be participated in by other mountaineering and concerned groups such Ayala Mountaineering Club, Inc. (AMCI) and the Kabalical Ovicom Phile. Supported in part by High Camp. Conquer, Sandago, Columbia, Camp-O and JJVS Computer Shop, this event is still open for sponsorship to make it even more fruitful in pursuit of protecting, conserving and maintaining ecological balance in the very enviconstrent where trustians can only survive. For details, kindly contact Edgardo Tenepere, Jr. at B22-5812 or Derek Constantino at 0918-9387213

Foreign Chambers Trade Fair

CREATING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES', THIS YEAR'S THEME OF THE Foreign Chambers Trade Feir is slated on April 21-22 at the Mega Trade Hall of SM. Said to be the biggest in its 5th year, the trade fair, has added new sections like the generation of jobs through a 'Job Fair conducted by differ ent call centers. The English is Cool Eggo which promotes the use of English amongst the youth and highlights the necessity to reactivate English as the youth's ticket to the hubse, and the promotion of wellness, healthcare and medical services as the "new" business opportunity for the Philippines. For more information, call Cancham at 843-6457 or Anacham at 765-8840.

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NOSHI (US Batch '90 general assembly

R ZALIAN BATCH '90 Association Inc. Invites all Rizal High Schoo Batch'90 praduate to a general assembly on April 22, Saturday, 5pm at the RHS Arumni Hall,

Carlogan Pasig City For details and inquirles please cal-Littemer Manajo at 0922-809-5405 ar Eugene Espinosa at 0917-735-9605 Relive the fun. Reminisca the moments and share the vision.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



EMILENE G. JUANE or

KETY JUANE whose picture appears above ceased to be connected with The Learning Child, Inc. at of March 31, 2006. Any transaction entered by her and her associates will not be honored by The Learning Child, Inc.

PDI: April 22, 2006)

INVITATION TO BIG "AS IS WHERE IS" **Damaged Motor Vehicles**

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TRANSCO PRESIDENT ADVISES CEBU GRADUATES Speaking before college graduates of the University of Cebu and

Cebu Institute of Technology recently, National Transmission

Corporation (TransCo) President Dr. Alan T. Ortiz emphasized the importance of education as a tool for the realization and

fulfillment of one's potential. "The best graduates among you

no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, will find

Interconnection Projects, which has secured power supply in

Cebu for the next 5-7 years, the province's march towards economic development has been further boosted.

will be leaders -people who, no matter where you put them, and

opportunities for growth and change. He also said that with the completion of TransCo's Leyte-Cebu and Cebu-Mactan

BITUARIES

Our dearly beloved Mama and Lola

Concepcion Yap Rebosura

"Lola Conching"

of Bulan, Sersogon

Peacefully joined her Cremor

Her loving bushend Bonifacio (†); children Imelda, Linda,

Irona, Beth and Minn, sons-ut-law Buddy Carling, Irone, Bong and Noel: grandchildren Mike, Em-Em, Chippi, Anne, Carle.

Wohle, Honey, Tammy, Paolo, Trixie and Pochle; sister Alda

Yap Barrun; sister-in-law Crispina M. Rehosura, all her

relatives and friends who love her so much request the prous

readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in the

Her remains lie in state at La Fusieraria Paz, Inc., Araneta

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the

Humlayang Pilipuso after the \$:00 a.m. Mass.

presence of our Lord.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ePLDT, YENTUS. INC, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New IT-Export Service on a <u>Non-Pioneer</u> Status with project/plant site located at PLDT Building, F. Ortigus Jr. corner Gernet Roads, Pasig City.

Any person with valid objection's on the above-maritioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under outs, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication. (Sgd.) RUDY & CAÑA

Project Evaluation and Registration Department (PDI-April 22, 2016)

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 - Exig. 255. Subic Bey Metropoliten Authority Subic Bey Freeport Zone

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stolen by an unknown customer at Setty's Eatery. Chan-Sweet, Bagulo City together with its contents which were.

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- Alter: Destinate of Registration (ACR) E259649, Date of Issue Movember 13, 2003
 A Xatarguya Sook
- Walker containing his American Express Card, Yeo [2]-BPI ATIX Cards Master Card, Wells Fargo Cargo Card, Bank of America, ATM Card, and cash Assorted Clothing

That on April 19, 2006 he executed as Affidard of Loss as per Dec. No. 335 Page No. 67 Book No. XIV. Series of 2006 of the Noterial Registry of Atty. Daniel D. Mangalley of Begulo A breathtaking discovery... Just 10 minutes from Alabang Take San Pedro eidt OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 22 & 23, 2006



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"A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has made all others shine brighter."

ROSARIO TIRONA JOAQUIN

Has joined her husband "Ike" and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of the Lord on April 18, 2006 at the age of 82 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Her bereaved children TESS, LINDY & Joe Jalbuena, TINA & Bobby Erum, ED & Bing Noel, CECILE & Jun Yasay, RENE & Sarah Lim, FREDDIE, CHARO & Bing Villegas; grandchildren & great grandchildren; brother ELISEO TIRONA, and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the family mausoleum, Loyola Memorial Holy Trinity Chapel, Marikina on Monday, April 24, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Peace in the heart, Light in the understanding"

BENJAMIN RIVERA LAGDAMEO

Loving husband of Nenita Esteva

Passed into the Light on April 20, 2006 at the age of 83.

He is remembered with great love and affection by his children and their spouses - Eddie and Merlene Rivilla, Rosario Beatriz, Buddy and Rosalyn Ivory, Marc, Karina and Osbi Santillau, Rico and Arnie de la Fuente, Liza, Eliu †, Denis; his grandchildren and their spouses - EJ and Anna Bollas, Mindy, Michie, Jason †, Sian and Manuel Legarda, Natalya, Daniel, Julian, Sara, Myki, Raphael; his great-grandchild - Edoardo Carlos; his brothers and sisters -Amado † and Marita †, Fe † and Andres † Palma, Pilar † and Benigno † Zialcita and Elvira † and Jorge † Royeca; and his in-laws Pilar † and Apolonio † Abola, Pepe † and Remy Esteva, Pacita † and Dick Lichnok, Terry and Johnny † Wilson, and Mila Esteva.

His body will lie in repose at Santuario de San Antonio, Porbes Park until April 24, 2006. Interment will be on April 25, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 am Memorial Mass.

His family, relatives and friends request all readers to pray for his eternal soul.

EX-MAYOR VIVENCIO C. PAVINO JR.

OF LUCBAN, QUEZON Peacefully joined his Creator

on April 19, 2006 at the age of 82.

His family requests the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in the presence of our Lord.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Rizal Avenue

corner San Luis St., Luchan, Quezon. Necrological services offered by Sungguniang Bayan ag Luchan at 10:00 u.m., April 24, 2006 at Luchan Municipal Hall.

Interment will be on Monday, April 24, 2006 at San Luis Memoriai Park, Luchan after the 1 00 p.m. Mass.

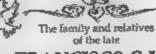
Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

efren henry S. Feraren

January 15, 1955 - April 13, 2006

wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation in those who in various ways expressed their condolences during our time of bereavement.



FRANCISCO C. U'I

who peacefully joined his Creator an April 13, 2006

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.





It's the country's first Flex Fuel Vehicle*, running on pure gasoline or gasoline mixed with up to 20% ethanol. Ethanol is made from natural sugarcane, making this alternate fuel renewable and environment-friendly While other vehicles are still getting ready to be ethanol capable, this car is clearly ready for the future.



*Applies to Ford Focus Sport 2.01, and Ghia 1.81





Find Andrews, Sept. 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981 | 1982-1981



PROPERTY



Digital SUTVEY lets you 'SEE' property before Purchase

By Tessa R. Salazar

RUELTY HAS ITS way of getting into property buyers' lives. Some end up buying "open polygon" properties shaped like a "Z" or a "G" and finding out later that these configurations are useless and have wasted millions of their pesos.

Other parcers of land have been tagged "prime property," only to be discovered later that these properties were obscure islands in the middle of the South China Sea. Other properties are even more obscure that their locations are undisclosed.

Add to this the aggravation that it takes severa, months and numerous government agencies to obtain a complete property profile.

Digital wizardry

Thankfully, there is no need for "divine "intervention" to ease these woes. All it takes is a bit of digital wizardry.

The Digital Survey, a third party audit which spots overlapping titles, excess boundaries and opening or closure of properties, is being marketed by Image Business Marketing Summit Inc.

Company president
Bernadette Brillantes said that
using its system, a landowner or
would be buyer can see where
the parcel of land is actually situated—al. the way down to the
barangay level.

Geographic layers

It identifies geographic layers connected to the land title (information and statistical data both absolute and variable) "Absolute" would mean bodies of water, land elevation, soil characterization, earthquake fauit, flood prone area, and climate, among others. "Variable"

would refer to characteristics possibly altered by recent political, economic and social changes including political boundaries, demographics, zonal value, presence of utilities and infrastructure, population and/or registered voters

Using this information, owners and buyers can compare and double check if the original location plan they have in their hands is correct. They can also check whether the size indicated in the titles is correct.

Apart from and titles provided by clients, the digital survey can also be based on tax declarations or lot plan with technical description and land monument.

Results of the digital survey can be produced within 24 hours.

"You can avoid faulty decisionmaking by having the properties checked first," said business development officer Chris Mirabueno.

Typographically erroneous

He added that 60 percent of those who approached the company for digital surveying have titles (or contents) that are typographically erroneous.

Mirabueno cited one land title which was specified in Pangasinan but was actually located in Panganya.

The information provided by the Digital Survey approximates the computerized land information system of another company that offers over 50 types of information layers on land nationwide.

To be able to avail themselves of the Digital Survey, landowners and buyers must submit a clear photocopy of the land title in question. The system will then extract the technical description from the document and plot the data on the master database

Once recognized, problems can then be resolved at the Land Registration Authority and Land Management Bureau.

Many functions

Among its many functions, the Digital Survey can assess the valuation of the land represented by the technical description of the land title that is processed.

With its zonal valuation layer of data sourced from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the exact calculation of the area, one can also immediately estimate the value of the property.

Brillantes claims that afterward, the true or correct titles in the database shall already be protected from any future attempts of land grabbing and overlapping.

The Digital Survey has an electronic file in XML format. In would cost P1,950 per title.

The survey employs computerized offsite infrastructure developed using techniques in software engineering.

Computer-aided design is used to compute for the lot data that ultimately plots the parcel into a spatial realm.

Among its many sources, the digital maps used are based on the official maps from the National Mapping and Resource Information. Authority (Namria) These maps provide standard spatial coordinates to the GIS processor Ail geographic layers used in processing the Digital Survey are synchronized using these standard coordinates.

More information can be accessed via www.ibmsi.com

ALL-IN-ONE GITS





THAY SLAND INCO

Shedding light on blinds

THE STYLE AND SAFETY FEAtures of blinds have come a ong way, thanks to companies like Hunter Douglas that have revolutionized the form and functionality of the product

Compared to windows, bunds offer these advantages:

Light control. Blinds can control light better than curtains. Hunter Douglas's blinds, in particular, are known for their variety and flexibility in controlling light During daylight hours, they can allow a healthy measure of sunlight to enter a home. They can also diffuse and gently filter it, rather than block it, so that its positive effects can still be (elt without the musance of a harsh glare.

• Energy efficiency. Studies show that 50 percent of solar heat that enters a room comes in through windows. With curtains or draperies, it's hard to control the room's temperature as the day changes, but with blinds, it's easier to either trap heat inside or prevent it from coming in. Hunter Douglas has particular fashioned blinds that can help increase or decrease temperature as a enters a room.

 UV protection. Just as sumscreen protects skin from the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays, blinds can protect a room's furniture. Furnishings made of wood, for instance, can suffer premature aging the same way people on. Too much light and heat can also bleach and dry out and fade the color of paintings and Oriental rugs. Virtually every Hunter Douglas product filters out at least 75 percent of the sun's hammful UV rays when closed over double-glazed glass windows. Many of its products provide even greater protection,

up to 99 percent when closed.

 Unwanted sounds. If your room is prone to reverberations and echoes, blinds can help absorb those sounds. This is also true of sounds that come from outside. Hunter Douglas has blinds specifically made to address these concerns.

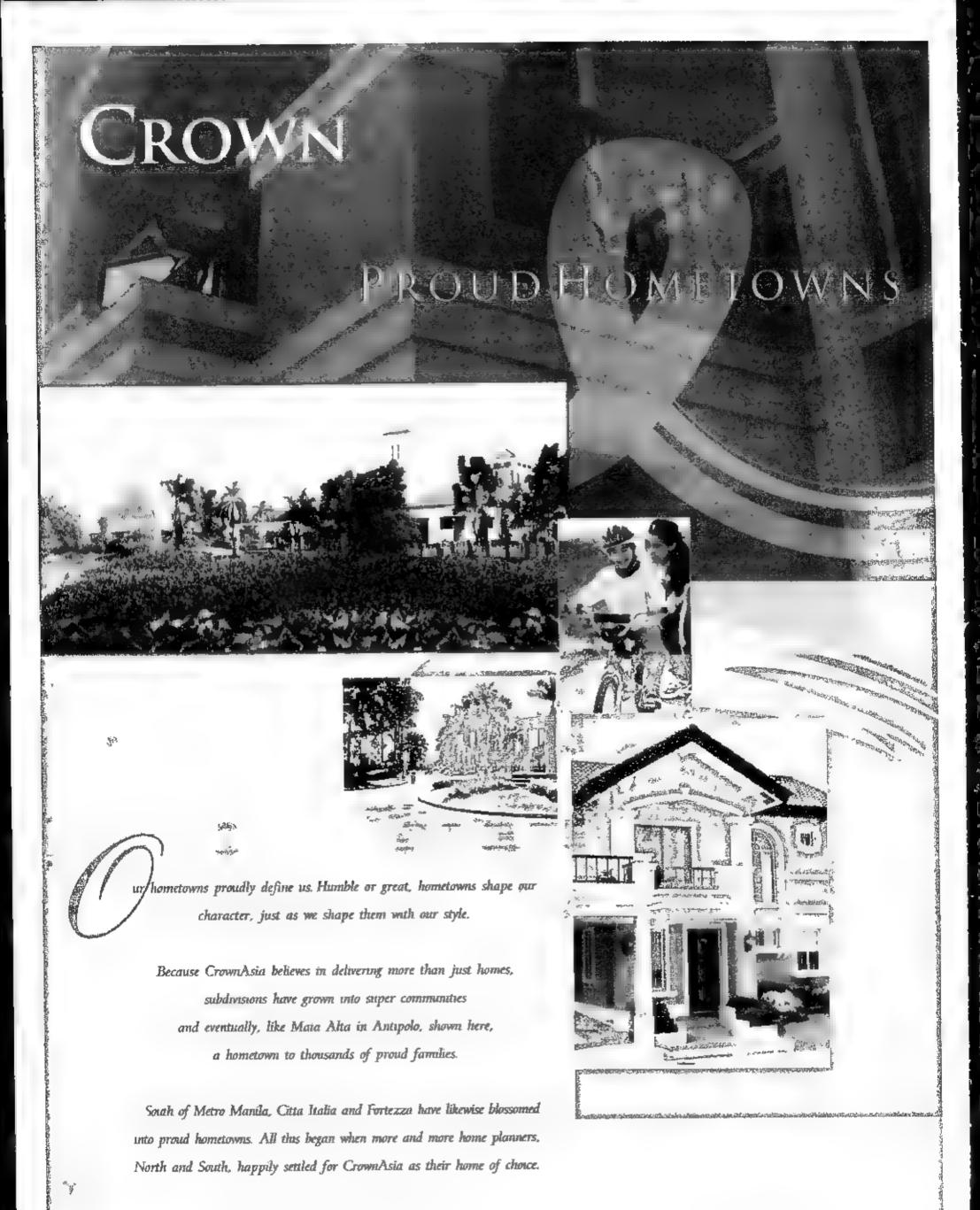
• Style. Binds can now easily address one's design needs. Vertical blinds, for one, can add height and dignity to a room, while horizontal ones can evoke relaxation and informality. And when it comes to design-savvy blinds, interior designers and decorators look to Hunter Douglas as their brand of choice—whether they're designing a family home, a vacation house, a café, a restaurant, or an entire office.

 Privacy. If you live in a busy street, privacy is first and foremost about blocking unwanted views. If you live in a private subdivision, privacy is not about blocking views but about creating a sense of emotional security.

Durability Blinds are good investments as they can last one a afetime. Hanter Douglas Venetian bands, for one, are known in the industry for their high-quality aluminum stars with high-tensile strength that can resist moisture and minimize permanent bending and damage.

 Care and cleaning. While cartains need washing and drying, all you have to do to clean blinds is to wipe it with a moist clock.

For more information about Hunter Douglas products, you can call (02) 453-3155, 0920-9249756, 0915-4062136, or e-mail at luxaflex@hunterdouglas.com.pb.



One can never have enough of a good thing.



5













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CrownAsia sets a design force to reckon with against the mountainscapes of Laguna

B usiness and industry bring welcome growth to the countryside like Laguna. But it's not enough to make families who need to live near where they work, happy and settled. At the end of the day, new residents look for beauty, comfort and style to come home to.

From communities to hometowns
As the country's biggest home builder,
CrownAsia has held these values as
development hallmarks. And this
vision has been well rewarded, as
hundreds have made CrownAsia their
"home of choice". As the family home
numbers blossom into the thousands,



CrownAsia proudly takes on the responsibility of managing townships.

Fortezza. A beacon of security and high detailed style.

The lessons learned from over a decade of developing stand-out projects is lavished on Fortezza. The urban plan, the home styles, the landscaping, all deliver a sense of security and glamour which is amazingly within the buyer's financial realities. This is the "wow" factor that

Cabuyao's pride
Fortezza homeowner's joy.
Everybody's welcome in For

CrownAsia.

brings more home planners to

Everybody's welcome in Fortezza
Home packages range from the
affordable to the grand in happy



harmony. Soon all other communities in Cabuyao will be developed like Fortezza. This alone is an affirmation of pride, which any homeowner seeks in their choice.

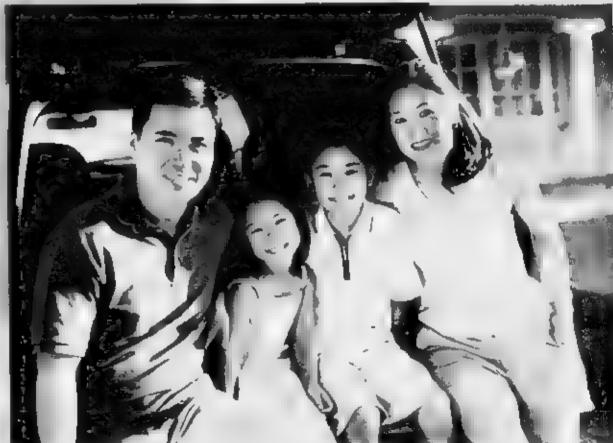


"A hometown of choice"
An affirmation that they made the right choice, and that their choice is the role model in their community. And when their community blossoms into a hometown, a pride grows deep within, not just for now, but for generations to come.

A "home of choice" to thousands of happy families deserves to be called a "proud hometown"



PROUD HOMETOWNS"



CROWN

PORTEZZA

CABUYAO, LAGUNA

A fortress town of value and style blossoms in Laguna

"Fortezza" in Italian means fortress and fortitude, which is what this new hometown has quickly blossomed to become from a small community.

Nestled against the dramatic Laguna mountainscapes, Fortezza, has happily become the home of choice for many professionals and family business entrepreneurs.

In fact, Fortezza has become a defining landmark, which Caburyao now proudly daims as its very own. So it's not only new residents that take pride when CrownAsia settles in.



For property preview, please call: 871-3882 / 873-1614 / 873-8412 visit www.crownasia.com.ph



AYALA Greenfield is a verdant environment with clean mountain fresh air.

A YALA GREENFIELD. LOcated just south of Metro Mannia, is a place where the bright bine sky competes with Laguna de Bay and where the lush green of the Robert Trent Jones golf course vies with the stately slopes of Mt. Makiling for attention.

A growing residential community nestied cozily in Calamba, Laguna, waking up in this environment can only mean a dream came true. The fresh breeze that turns into a mischievous wind, the sun-kassed fields stretching as far as the eye can see and the mountains a constant reminder of the grandness of nature are gifts to savor and all from the comforts of one's home.

Ayala Greenfield has cleverly combined man's genius with the majesty of nature by providing a world-class golf course as we'll as

GROUNDBREAKING





RESIDENTS of Ayala Greenfield are very close to nature and can enjoy different activities at the development's picnic huts, paries and indoor amonities.



a first-rate goaf club that offers endless types of recreation and magnificent vistas. With the endless blue of the bay on one side and the stuming slopes of Mr. Makiling on the other, one is neverature.

Great outdoors

Hiking and biking trails, fishing lagoons, picnic grounds abound. The swimming pools and the purting green tend to the body's relaxation while the game room, badminton, basketball and tennis courts as well as fitness centers and wellness spar return cam, vigor and energy to the bu-



THE FISHING lagour is a place where young and old affire can release and savor the cool, nature-rich environment of Ayela Greenfield.

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THE LUSH, thick greens of Ayala Greenfield and the majestic sight of Pt. Maldling are just some of the exciting views that Ayala Greenfield offers.

man spirit. These offerings are all designed to bring one and all into harmony with the almost mystical quanty of nature

Amid the spectacular blooms, gardens and vistas as well as the cheerful call of the plentiful birds, one is soothed and comforted and the great outdoors was never better showersed.

As a prime residential commumy, the best gift of being a member is being a mere stone's throw away from God's gifts. Waking up to the burst of a sunnise or celebrating the beginning of an evening with the spiecedor of the sunset are just two testaments of the grandhess of nature in Ayala Greenfield

Good luck

Living so harmoniously with the positive energy of the surtounding environment portends an auspicious existence on this earth. Combined with the winds and waters that grace the 'egion, these all spell good luck for the community's families and their





the first and the same of the

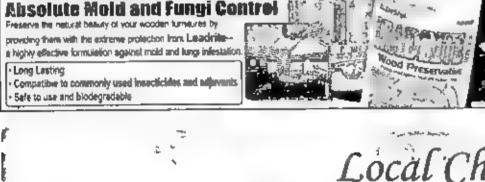
FAMILY members can have a great time at the Ayala Greenfield Village Clubhouse Infinity pool.

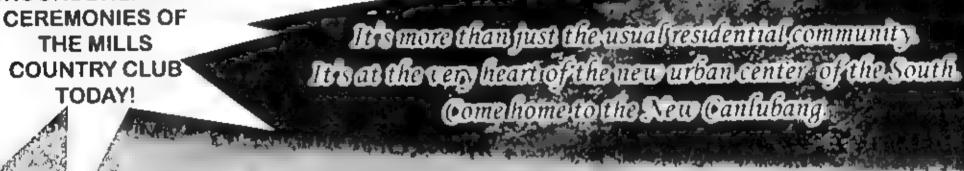
Through Ayals Land Premier's thoughtful and expert masterplanning, the natural beauty of the area is a welcome insulation to the frenetic activity of city living and carefully harnessed for homeowners and their families to enjoy.

Ayala Greenfield is one of the choicest, exclusive residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land, whose excellent brand of service and care has led to the development of innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, first-class abodes over the last few decades. It is developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corp.

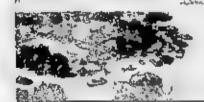
For inquiries about Ayela Greenfield, please call 728-7000, log on to www.sya.agreenfield-estates.com or e-mail sya.a-sues@ayela.and.com.ph











OPERTY





THE TWO-BEDROOM Ruby model is a single-ettached unit with a 35.2-sq-m floor area.

Providing quality homes in far-off neighborhoods

By Charles E. Buban

HILE A NUMber of big home developers are busy investing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, one developer has decided to venture as well as lend its expertise in developing communities in far off locations.

"It's about time home developers turn their attention to these places. Not only can their investments help spur development in these areas, these places are also huge market waiting to be tapped," said Jesus Atencio, president of Firm Builders Realty and Development Corp.

In 2004, FBRDC has entered into a joint venture with spouses Robert and Myrna de Guzman to develop over 16 hectares of land in Maddarulug Sur, Enrile in the province of Cagayan.

Rio del Grande Subdivision is the resuit of this partnership. With its development in full swing, FRRDC is able to bring its experience and building expertise to this project to come up with quality homes that are within reach of its intended market," plained Atencio.

Like a number of its projects in other locations, FBRDC de-

cided that Rio del Grande Subdivision fall under the mass housing-type category. With a gross area of 16.41 hectares, the subdivision will give rise to some 1,052 units with lot sizes ranging from 80 to 100 square meters and with prices ranging from P310,000 to

Attractive to buyers

What will make Rio del Grande Subdivision attractive to buyers, according to Atencio, is its location. The project, about 10 km from Tiguegarao, sits on a unique terrain that offers a panoramic view of the Cagayan River and the 1.098 km Buntun Bridge (the longest bridge in the country after San Juanico in Leyte and Samar).

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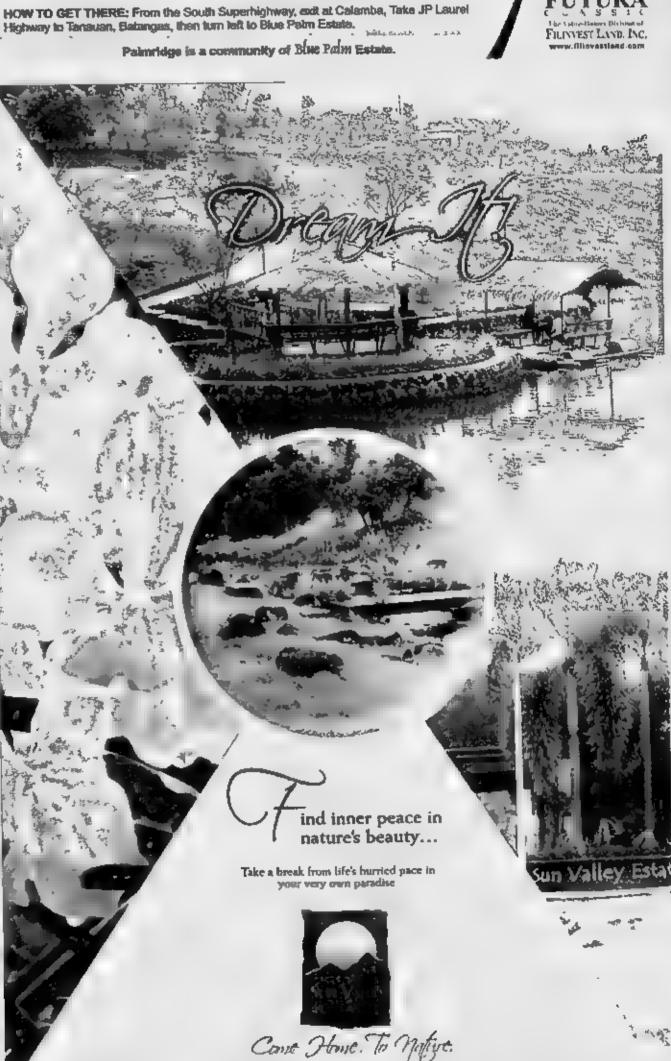
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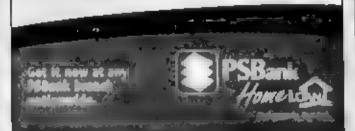


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PROPERTY

Advancing Filipino mountain architecture

I DON'T WANT TO TURN MY column into a travel guide although I do travel around the country quite a lot However, this time I chanced upon a coupie of remarkable spots up north, in the adjacent towns of Lagawe, which is the capital of Ifugao province, and Kiyanan, which is the historical site of Yamashita's surrender Though their other neighboring town, Banewe, is more popular for its rice terraces, these two towns can also boast of some interesting

Finding attractive and LIVING out of the ordinary architectura, structures in farflung places like this always comes as a pleasant

Traveling north and Marcos de Guzman Jr. surprise. looking for a pitstop for

a decent breakfast, I saw a sign of "The Gazebo" on the main road. Following my instincts and my turning, I found a wel -planned garden restaurant, wellintegrated to its landscape. This oasis of sorts is owned by a young coupie, Jonathan and Rowena Tocyap. They had created a simple, rustic setting, complete with southing music and filling meals, to give customers full sensory satisfaction.

Red and rested. I asked the couple if they knew a fine place for an overnight stay. Without hesitation, they directed us to the house of Rowena's sister that is on a nearby bill overlooking the Ibalao riv-

lfugao craftsmanship

The house is built on limestone rocks that were integrated into the design Glass doors and windows allow a wonderful view of the surrounding plains and the river. The main door, as well as inner doors are intricately carved, thick panels of wood that highlight Ifugao craftsmanship. Local baskets, carvings and woven cloths are tastefully placed in the rooms.

Beds and seating are built into the rocks, thus maximizing use of space as

well as a proper integration of forms. The use of rough-hewn wood lends the feel of a cozy mountain cabin. This fascinating retreat is the residence of the Doctors Toto and Tess Kalugdan. Being very much involved in promoting tourism in their province, they decided to allow visitors to share the comfort and beauty of

Mountain architecture

Filipino mountain architecture has that rustic, cozy ambience to it. The use of pine and other natural wood is prevalent. Building on rock and over rolling terrain is often a Decorating must.

with tribal crafts is common. But creating something new and extraordinary out of all these givens is what makes a structure stand out. The Kalugdans' home is one of the standouts.

All those who support and advance Filipino designs deserve a second look. We need more of these concepts in every region in the country to highlight the local taients in the respective communines. The Ifugaos are known for their



ORIGINAL rock formation were exposed to form part of the feature.



wood carvings. The Bicolanos take pade in their weaves. The people of Zamboan-ga do great metalwork. All we need are people who could appreciate and showcase these skills and find diversified uses and applications for them.

It ought to be a matter of pride for us to use these local art objects in adorning our own homes and offices. I just wish that there could be asstitutions to help our craftsmen promote their creations here and abroad. I hope that they will to be able to pass on their skills to the next generation of Filipinos. Because if not, an emportant part of the true Filipino will be be driven to extinction.

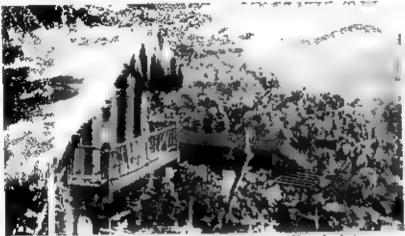
Promoting Filipino architecture and crafts is not just a matter of pride. It should be a survival instinct



BALAO Rooms and firm shows the cottage which make use of recycled wood.



THE CHARM of old houses and Ifugao craftsmanship accentuates the entrance foyer of the inn.



THE HOUSE is built on limestone rocks that were integrated into the design.

A SPECIAL SUBSECTION OF THE

Stouten EVIE

ON HOMES PUBLISHED MONTHLY SECOND ISSUE: APRIL 23, 2006

Living Large in Small Spaces

All it takes is imagination to maximize the miniature By Amel Patawaran

My Secret Pocket Garden

Who says you can't have the luxury of having greenery if your home is snort on space? By Chelo Banal-Formoso, Lifestyle editor: ...

Garden Designs for All Seasons

profilush landscapes, pocket gardens, gazebos, etc.

Condo Livina

A pictorial on the interiors of a one-bedrooms condominium unit (Shang Tower) By Alex Vergara

Space-saving Appliances

Sourcing the must haves if you want to live comfortably in cramped surroundings

Home Rescue Column Ronald Puno

BOYSEN RECENTLY HELPED BUILD THE THEATER CENTER OF THE Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) in Quezon City

Boysen helps build new Peta home

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Gloriosa Cabangon, National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces and luminaries from Peta's international and local partners such as DuPont were also at the event to witness another milestone in Peta's

The Peta Theater Center is a visual attraction with its concave facade, an articulated canopy and glass exteriors. Inside the four-story theater center are functional spaces used as theater, library, exhibition hall, and studios.

The modern minimalist design approach is contrasted by the bright Peta red paint specially made by Boysen for the organization. The combination of subdued design and intensa red color reflects the vivid imagination and passion of Peta and its guest users.

Major facelift of AUFMC OR complex

THE ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION MEDICAL CENTER IN ANgeles City has taken undertaken the renovation and modernization of its operating room (DR) complex

AJFMC president and CEO Dr. Emmanuel Y' Angeles said the randvation of the OR complex reached a total of P50 million

He said AUFMC's continuing improvement is made possible through donations from benefactors here and abroad. Later last year AUFMC received a donation of P5 million from Jack Lam, chair of the Jimel Group of Companies which manages Fontana Leisure Park located inside Clark Special Economic Zone. All donations to Au-FMC are tax deductible by virtue of its accreditation by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification.

Providing quality

T believe developers should invest more on this segment Investing in a low-cost housing development would not only meet the peeds of the local people, but also set an example for other investors," said Atencio.

At present, FBRDC has seven ongoing projects covering the development of about 43 hectares of land and the construction of about 3,400 housing units mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao

Atencio said the subdivision will offer core single-attached type of units for those falling under socialized category, and oneor two-bedroom, single-attached type of units for those falling un-

der the low-cost category "Affordable housing is a na tional issue, primarily because of millions of Filipinos living below the poverty line that is also affect-

ing many middle-income house holds. Unless we generate affordable housing in new areas, we will not only aggravate our housing backlog but also traffic and our substandard housing probiems," expiained Atencio

The country's housing backlog is currently at 4.2 m thon.

The FBRDC is the flagship company of Firm Builders Group of Companies.

Together with its other affiliares (that also include Tierra Minerva Properties Development Corp., Guimaras Realty Inc. and Southern Flagship Real ty Inc.), the Group has successfully completed the development of 24 mixed use housing subdivisions or a total of 11,000 housing units in the Visayas and Mindanno, covering an aggregate area of 256 hectares, or over a span of 14 years



deserves to be recognized and encouraged FBDRC urged.



AN ARTIST'S rendition of Club Island, a

country club boasting of first-class leisure

facilities out in the heart of The Islands.

The Islands: lifescape of island-themed leisure

BRITTANY CORP, WITH ITS MAVERick's track record of building highend, master-planned and theme-inspired communities that each becomes a "lifescape"—4 total environment for luxury living that elevares residents' enjoyment of life to a new lever-adds the fast-paced development of The Islands to its distinguished roster of projects.

Strategically located on 130 hectares of prime, expansive spaces bound by the Molino-Paliparan Highway and Governor's Drive in Dasmarinas, Cavite, The Islands is a collection of comfortable enclaves, each inspired by one of the world's best island communities. The big idea, the vision behind The Islands, is to offer a playful, leisurely way of life in a breezy, sunny, year-round paradise, where summer waxes perpetual, surrounded by the vast outdoors under great blue skies, where children play in safety and residents live in relaxed contentment.

5 enclaves

The Islands is composed at present of five enclaves, each with its own distinctive, island-inspired theme;

· Ibiza. Reflective of its namesake. Ibiza is a Mediterranean-inspired estate, now completed and all sold out. One of the bigger enclaves of The islands, Ibiza has custom home sites with lot areas starting at 400 sq m.

· Island Park, A resort-inspired enclave, Island Park is another completed project with home and lot packages as well as custom home sites.

· Montego. A Caribbean-inspired retreat, one of Montego's highlights—spart from the tastefully ap-plied influences from the colorful region from which its theme derives-is its premium on privacy and exclusivity. Underscoring us continuous devel-

opment, The Islands recently launched two new enciaves, namely Caribé and Amalfi, further enriching the variety in interpretations of leisurely, island-inspired living, while enhancing property

values with their quality.

· Caribé. The Islands' latest offering, Caribé is intended for a select market of residents who want to maximize their enjoyment of life after having carved out successful careers. Cambé is a milestone in the development of bomes for such a discriminating market, because it is the first enclave of its kind to offer home designs that are all sprawling and single-story

The designs are inspired by classic Flonda homes in which exuberant Caribbean influences are combined with sophistication and urbanity, bringing the best of two worlds together Caribé home designs feature an open floor plan, a great room and wide ve-

randas. Custom home sites along with home and lot packages are now avail-

 Amalfi. Developed by Brittany Corp.'s sister company Crown Asia, Amalfi draws its thematic influences from the warm, leisure resorts of its namesake in Italy. It offers a range of home and lot packages that are perfect for families big or small.

As port of the master-planning for The Islands, amenines will include Club Island, the country club which will be conveniently located in the heart of the community Club Island will boast must-have leisure facilities in a spectacular propical setting, such as a free-farm good interspersed with cahanas.

Tropical gardens, butterfly sanctuarjes and palm trees will surround the ctubbouse. The grand ballroom will comfortably accommodate 300 persons. Club Island will be the embodement of The Islands' vision of playful leisure. Soon to be offered are memberships that will pave the way for future homeowners to enjoy the islandstyle, country club life.

Ruded by careful master-planning that thoughtfully anticipates residents' needs and wants so that they will errory a lifescape of comfortable, playful leisure. The Islands and its enclaves are quickly becoming a reality. The continuous unfolding of the vision driving The Islands will soon reach full potential, and is something that residents will be proud of. For a property preview of The Islands, in particular Caribé, its latest offering, call 850-3084 and 850-2868, or visit www. htittany.com.ph.





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The faculty for this course, which is

participated in by key industry players, is

Prof. Antonio also reaches the Development.

of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property

Management and Finance electives under

the Master In Business Administration

Prof Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the

has accumulated over 27 years of

experience in various aspects of the

property business. He is CEO and founder

of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort

Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of

Desta & MacIson South residential villages

and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resprt

Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business

Management degree (With Distinction)

from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La

Philippine Real Estate Industry, where

led by Professor

Danilo A. Antonio,

a current member

of the Asian

Center for

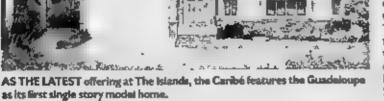
Entrepreneurship

ACE) core faculty

as a Guru In the

1 n

Master



Privileged living inside The Manors

IN CITY LIVING, WHICH SEAMLESSLY INTEgrates the amenities and ambience associated only with today's famous out-of-town leisure spots into the caming comforts of home, has quickly caught fire among young couples and upwardly mobile professionals.

Now, DMCI Homes, one of the chief exponents and builders of these resort-residentia. ommunities, is expanding the modern concept of this type of development with the upcoming unveiling of The Manors at Celebrity Place, a seven-building, mid-rise condominium complex inside the Celebrity Place compound in Balara, Quezon City.

Built-in membership

Not only as the renowned developer offering a bulk-in membership in Celebrity Sports Club, the centerpiece structure on the compound, for every home unit at The Manors. It is, in a significant way, giving added value to the already ideal location of the latest in DM-Cl Homes' series of developments in a resorttype setting.

The Manors, which is located near the nation's premier business and commercial districts, rises within distance of a belt of top universities and exclusive schools like University of the Philippines in Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, Marriam College, Philippine Science High School, New Era College and Kostka

The Manors is near such posh residential villages like La Vista, Tierra Pura, Xavierville and Ayala Hiliside Estate. This gives added prestige to the project set to be launched to-day at 4 p.m. at the grand ballroom of the Celebrity Place. (Interested parties may call 888-3333 to confirm their attendance }

Another major strength of The Manors will come from the existing world-caliber facilities of the adjacent Celebrity Sports Club which has had hosted a string of international sports competitions, notably in swimming and bowl-

Fit for everyone

The Manors has everything for everyone. For fitness and health buffs, there's an Olympic-size swimming pool, baskethall court, covered tennis courts, bedminton courts, archery range, fitness gym, bowling and billiards center. There are splash pools and water slides for those enamored of themed parks.

For those who derive a high from the swirl of social charge or who enjoy being pampered, the club has a grand ballroom, function halls, fine dining restaurants, bistros, spa/sauna, beauty salon and relaxation lounge.

its overall design gives weight and emphasis on functional structural details such as balcomes for some units, roof decks for top floor units and color schemes that are at once subdued and classy.

The Manors offers two to three bedroom condo units with prices ranging from P4.3 million to P5.2 million.

With everything it has to offer, living at The Manors becomes a privilege.



LOSINE SALE OF THE SALE OF THE

A five-day program that brings together key leaders of the Philippine Real Estate industry to:

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Saile University (1974).

www.alm.edu



ARTIST'S rendition of The Manors' Portchesser Building

3 home designs for Mt. Malarayat Residential Estates

LEADING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER car closed garage with an open area pies a 326 sq m floor area. Active Group recently unveiled three types of home designs for the Mount Malarayat Residential Estates-Arianna, Gabrielle and Miczela.

House and 10t packages are priced starting from about P8 mil.ion.

Contemporary Spanish

Planned for a 422-square-meter tot area, the Arianna follows the elegant lines of contemporary Spanish style architecture with warm earth tones such as beige and brown

Spread across a 368 sq-m floor area is an upscale home of plush interior space that incorporates a grand staircase, a formal entry foyer, a livng room with a high volume ceiling, a wide gourmet kitchen with an island counter top, a pantry and a powder room. Five master suites occupy the second floor and offer a commanding view of the nearby fishing lake and golf course.

The Arianna also includes a three-

for one more car, ampie garage storage room, front yard landscaping, a laundry area, a mad's room and a driver's room.

Mediterranean

Envisioned for a 414 sq-m lot, Gabrielle's pronounced columns, geometric windows, expansive sliding glass doors, clay-tile roof, wooden brackets and accent mid-roofs over the langis show a contemporary Mediterranean inspiration A textured finish in a warm, vibrant color palette washes the façade Inside, the four luxurious suites feature their own standard appointments such as large bedrooms, lavish master baths, vanities, dressing areas, and walk-in

Other features are an omate staircase adjacent to the forma, aving room, kitchen with storage pantry, a driver's room, a maid's room and an outdoor laundry area. In all, the Gabrielle occu-

American Georgian

The M.caela fits just right for a 319 sq-m lot and presents a delightful throwback to the American Georgian style. The broad frontal gable shows a large window to follow the sensibility of design inspiration. The grooved exterior walls, emulating the shingle construction, are also a visual reference to a classic feature of the tradi-

This contemporary home, occupying a 205 sq-m floor area, has three spacious bedrooms-all with their own walk-in closets and bathrooms. The outstanding feature is the view to the fishing take from the kitchen, dinmg room and one bedroom on the second floor.

Outside, manicured rotundas offer a genteel and refreshing welcome to homeowners and visitors alike. Generous open parks in every block provide pockets of greenery and inviting

sanctuaries where one can relax and

Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates is in Lipa City, Batangas. It is easily accessible via South Luzon Expressway (Slex) in

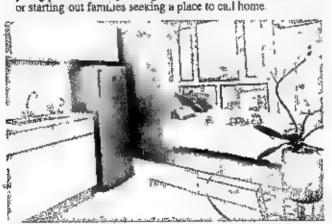
Laguna and the new Southern Tagaog Arterial Road (Star) in Batangas. For property previews, please e-mail sales@activegroup.com.ph or visit www.maiarayat.com or www.active-

GABRIELLE

MEZZA RESIDENCES: GET A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

From the country's most respected names to retaining and mal. development comes a project that's soon to be a by-word in condominum living the Mezza Residences.

Situated at Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta and Gurrayan Streets in the heart of Quezon City, the impressive Mezza Residences has four 38 storey residential towers. Offering one bedroom, twobedroom, three-bedroom, and suite units with introductory prices ranging from one to five mailion. Mezza Residences is suited for young professionals yearning for their first taste of independence



R. BANCO DE

1-Bedroom Unit

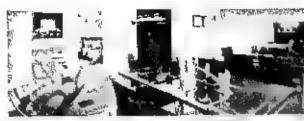
"Mezza Residences is metropolis living at its most convenient," shares Julie Jalandoni, Assistant Vice President for Sales and Marketing of SM Development Corporation (SMDC). "Everything one can ever need is right here, thus saving on gas, energy, and precious time. We really had the lifestyle of today's arbanites in mind in developing this project addressing as many of their aving requirements."

Each tower has three high-speed elevators and ample parking. There is a main lobby in each tower and a welcome lobby on each floor as well. An individual aundry drying area for each tnut and a centralized garbage collection and disposa, system are provided for added convenience

Supported by the SM Group of Companies and Banco de Oro, Mezza Residences allows you to enjoy a wide variety of activities all under one roof Cafes, service, and retail establishments are conveniently located at the podium at the ground and second level.

"Everyone can go home and do all their shopping right here. Young urbanites can dine out and have a good time with their friends," adds Jalandom "Mezza truly finds its hallmark on convenience. But more than just that, SMDC puts this together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous

Mezza. Residences takes pride in its liash greens. Unique to this project is its sprawling 1,000 square meter lawn an inviting place where families can have a picnic, play catch with the kids or take an afternoon nap-



3-Bedroom Unit

Giving importance to healthy living, a Zen-inspired garden with a meditation area and a reflexology path relaxes the mind and spirit of the weariest urban dweiler. Kids can soak up the sun in the kiddle poor while adults can stay fit by swimming in the 25 meter ap pool

Here at Mezza Residences, it's all about living the city life to the fullest.

It is a short distance away from the Central Codleges of the Philippines, the Immaculate Heart of Mary College, the UERM Hospital, the UERM Memorial Medical Center, the LRT 2 Sta. Mesa Station, and the bustling Araneta area. Everything indeed is within your reach. The Mezza Residences is a project of the SMDC. For inquiries, call 831 51 51 or 0918-888-1203. Log on to the SMDC website at www.smdevelopment.com. Model units are available for viewing at the SM City Sta. Mesa.



Visit our model units at the SM City Sta. Mesn.

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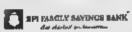


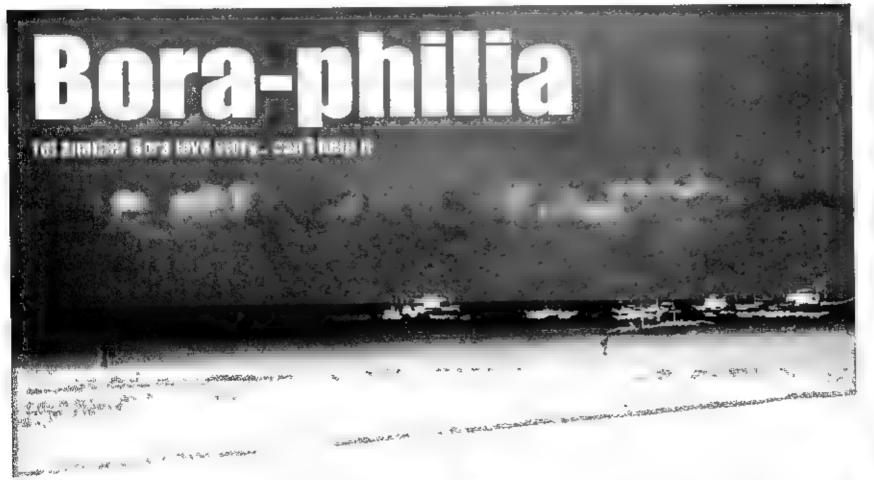
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N A RECENT PRESS JUNKET TO BORACAY, A fellow media junketeer had asked me how long I had been on the island. My unflappable companion and co-columnist Gino de la Paz had jokingly volunteered my answer, replying, "since 1997."

It wasn't true, of course, though in the vast ocean of my magination, I had been in Boracay a lot longer than that. Since I had arrived there for the first time many years ago, I don't think I ever really left .t

Who ever forgets their first time stepping foot on Boracay? I came to the island long ago with a few close friends, arriving at nighttime When I jumped off the boat, my feet sank into sand so soft it feit like I was stepping right through pure cloudstuff. I looked up at the vast sky, pinpricked by thousands of stars, and was so overwhe, med by the beauty that I actually knett down and kissed the sand Then I woke up the next morning, and stared, stupefied, at the view of the clearest blue sky meeting a mirror sea of shift ing cotors of turquoise and aqua-

We stayed in a hut that stood arone amidst stretches of blinding white sand before the next thatched structure Little things like ice were such rare commodities that we'd have to walk so far away just to get it, and by the time we got back to our place, the ice had already meited into the plastic bag. These were the mundane, happy little problems we had back then, in the innocent days of paracise.

Sunset worship

In the afternoons, I would walk far into the cool waters, towards the ane formed by the sky meeting sea. The water was so clear I could watch the smad fish swim playfully around my feet. Immersed in

the water, I'd wait for my favorite rime of the day. Sunset

It was the daily ritual on the isand. People halted in their steps, and turn their heads towards the setting sun. Even the children, seemingly oblivious just minutes before playing in their sand pools, would stop and stare in silence to honor what in their hearts knew was something far greater than themselves. Something so sacred and powerful and good. in that twilight, I'd watch the sun melt into the liquid sapphire, and witness, in those few, fleeting munutes, the sky and sea merge. More than paradise found, I had found my home

And so I kept coming back, throughout the years, so often in fact, that many times I've been mistaken for a local, or rather, a transplanted Manileña (1 could only wish) I knew that I had been going there far beyond the normal frequency for a Manila-based city sticker when I started getting birthday and holiday text greetungs from some of the boatmen and the socal Bora kids. (A not to mention. Eve kept some running rabs on a few of the bars there.) Happy days are made of mocha rhum shakes (with double shots), kaierdoscopic happy-hour sunsets at Cafe del Mar, chilling at Aria, fire zipping at Hey Jude,

jamming with the locals to "One Love," wharfing Chori burgers, basking in the moonrise, and finding secret spaces on the many other sides of the island. This composes the eternal summer to my mind.

Progress in Paradiso

The Boracay today is very different, and it's a tale of progress oft told and retold. Sprouting on White Beach over the years are restaurants and bars and dive shops, resorts and neon-lit concrete palaces with swimming pools, malls and yes, even a small pastel-colored ferris wheel at the center of a pavillon of commercial establishments. Tourists of all skin colors traverse the sandy causeway, some females in their high heels, and many armed with cell phones in order to track each other's whereabouts on the island. I wasn't there last Holy Week, but I beard that there were 50? no, 80 thousand holiday revelers in Boracay that week. Homaygad.

Will progress in paradise ultimately spell its demise? I've beard the scuttlebutt, that it can no longer sustain its growth, that the beach front waters are a giant petri dish of coliform, that it's fated to go the way of Atlantis in a few decades. What do I think? Well, that is entirely up to as.

Progress in paradise can be a good thing, as long as the powers-that-be realize the massive (but bonorable) responsibility on their hands. Boracay should not be seen as merely a profitable venture, but a heritage to be proud of So if I may present my modest proposal, I'd ask that the lucky ones who have the money, the influence or degree of sovereignty in the island to keep nurturing that mystical connection with it, to never forget that first time, that first step on sand that seemed as if it were from a reverie

And I'd say this should go for every individual visiting the island as well—to be in touch with that profound sense of beauty that you would never be a cause for descriction, no matter how tiny the action. If you really love Boracay, don't trash it, don't ditch agarette butts and beer boules on the sand, and most especially, chuck that indifferent, poser city attitude. Because for me, the first step towards destruction, the first disconnected link in the chain, is a mindset that one is separate from nature, not realizing that he is part of the magic of the Island itself

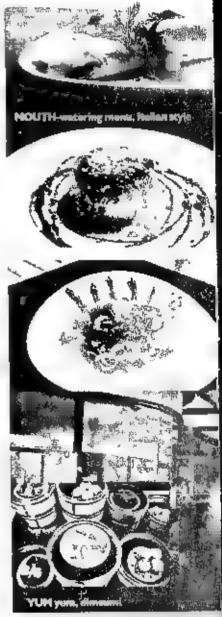
As for me, I shall continue to kiss the sand each time I come back to Boracay. I can't help it, it's a classic symptom of Bora philia.



By Tals Diaz Photos by Kage Gozun

HAT IS IT ABOUT THE beach that just makes everything better?

There must be something about the salty breeze and the coconnt-scented surf that heightens the senses and makes the ordinary



A mini palace of Dim Sum

Dim Sum and Noodles, has recently found its own cozy space in paradise. Now, beach combers can satisfy their post-boozing Chinese cuisine cravings just a few meters away from the beachfront, at the centralized pavilion of D'Mal.



THAT'S fiery sensel Paulino Servado, who always lines up the crowd on his fave sandy playground.

ORACAY, THE SUMMER season's premiere party destination was the site of weeklong activities that gave vacationers and partyphiles & whole new experience-and possibly, the best Boracey summer ever!

The seties of parties was kicked off by the Globe 3G Full Moon Partles-a first-of-itsland festive fusion of house music and mibal beats, neon black lights and Globe 3G technology,

Globe took party-hopping to the next level as it connected packed parties at two of Bora's most happening nightspots, via Globe 3G video calls Bigpercens at both venues showed



GLOBE'S 3G splitscreen at Pier

live aideo calls between the parties, allowing revelers to enjoy the sights and sounds of both events at once—the groovy rhythms of DJ Funky Avy and three international Dis-DJ Nomad, Jojo Flores and Christian



Hernandez at Plazoleta in Station 2. and Gruppo Tribale's frenetic beats all the way down the beach at Pier One in Station 1. Two places, 'one big party, uniquely connected through Globe's insovarive 3G technology!

Globe's 3G team introduced the technology to enthusiastic party-goers at Plazoleta who got to talk to and see their friends at Pier One. Likewise, guests at Pier One were also able to check in on their friends at the Plazoleta party. It seemed anywhere in Boracay, people were able to connect with each other using 3G1

Thousands of the island paradise's guests and party-goers were able to experience 3G-sering and not just talking to each other-whether they were at Globe's Floaring Bar, Summer Tambayan, or anywhere on the beach! After experiencing these exciting possibilities firstband, subscribers could hardly contain their enthusiasm for Globe's full rollout of this technology.

Tech-savvy tourists, on the othex hand, anyaded the Globe Suramer Tambayan for an unlimited dose of super-charged third generation technology, which allowed them to check their e-mail, surf their favocite sites, watch clips or download music. Here, mobile fanaties also got to listen



to and download the latest and hippest summer ringtones, ringback and true tones at the Globe Gentas Listening Stations.

Meanwhile, vacationers received Globe passports which gave them ideas on how to spend their best summer ever on the 15land and a chance to win exciting stuff from Globe. Tasks enumerated in the passports had them completing simple, fun chal-lenges which woo for them free beach accessories, downloads, drinks and a chance to win iPods and one of 50 cell phones.

Thousands of Boro habitues paraded the island's shores and shops with the hottest, handlest accessory this summer, Globe's

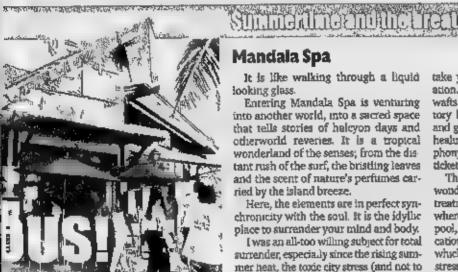
mini-beach bags which they also got for freet Also free with the mere purchase of a Globe SIM card and load were Globe beach towels which were a ubiquitous sight, modeled by Boracay's got geous beach bodies.

A-listers also found a new hangout in Boracay's new floating ber and restaurant which opened es-cently. Sponsored by Globe, the hip hangout was the best way to enjoy Boracay, sipping on your favorite drink, dancing to the waves and the music of DJ Chris Cheng while enjoying the tropical peradisa's famous sunset.

At the Globe Summer Than bayan, visitors were given internet access courtesy of langue and



World Pass. The Giobe 3 demonstrated the 9G c there so mobile broadban was free! Here, mobile also got to listen to and de personalized the sate happest summer rington back and true tones at th Geneat Listening Stations set, the Globe Summer Ta-played host to the Globe Chill parties where Glo scribers who downloaded ficial Globe Boracay Sun paceived free drinks and a ing hot spectacle courtes m's best fire-dancers. Everyone's awasome



JIRER.

extraordinary. An ice-cold Coke tastes better, ice cream just waltzes with your taste buds, a sip of your usual San Mig light makes you feet like throwing a party in your own attle space in sandy Bohemia. Even a massage on the beach feels like it should go on forever.

If you find yourself in Boracay this summer, treat your taste buds to some new specials this season.

The offertory of Aria

Ana has already become a landmark in my regular Boracay sojourns.

Everytime I come to Boracay, I never

faii to come here. I even have a favorite lounge space-on the cushions nearest the water. Under a canopy of coconut trees, your senses are treated to the aroms of tomatoes and seafood warring with

the tropical breeze.

Aria has recently introduced a lineup of brand new recipes from the kitchen of renowned Italian chef Gino Amodio. The exquisite new dishes are absolutely fantastic. Savor the Capesante gratinate, or gratinated scallops, the Tanguigue in acqua pazza, or tanguague fish fillet with cherry tomato and white wine in a spicy sauce. Another must-relish is the Spaghettim al granchio, with crab meat in olive oil and white wire. Prego:

Of course, if I had my way, I'd take the advice of my choco-hone friends and have dessert first. The new one on the list is the Pannacotta al Cioccolato e Mandorie, a cream custard with chocolate and almonds. No superfatives can come close as the sweet carries on its love affair with your mouth.

(Arta sits serenely along the beachfront of D'Mail of Boracay.)



The best thing about Mongkok is the array of dimsum, offering the all-time favorite Chinese fare, like the hakao and shark's fin sioma. For the more voracious exters, satisfy your appetite with favorite wanton poodle soup and the beef broccoh in oyster sauce. Yum yum dimsum!



experience culminated with the Globe Groove party in Pier One where Gentiters were treated to rousing enterta ament provided by DJ Mars Manano. K 24/7 and Dice & K-9 The true high ight of the evening was the awarding of cell phone kits for the dangent first 50 who accompashed all 7 fun tasks in their Globe passport

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But more than the free items like cell phones bags and beach towels, what made this Boracay holiday most memorable for thousands were the fun the dancing, the laughter the music, and most importantly, the connections made possible by Glube!

Mandala Spa

It is like walking through a liquid looking glass.

Entering Mandala Spa is venturing into another world, into a sacred space that tells stories of helcyon days and otherworld reveries. It is a tropical wonderland of the senses; from the distant rush of the surf, the bristling leaves and the scent of nature's perfumes carried by the island breeze.

Here, the elements are in perfect synchronicity with the soul. It is the idyllic place to surrender your mind and body.

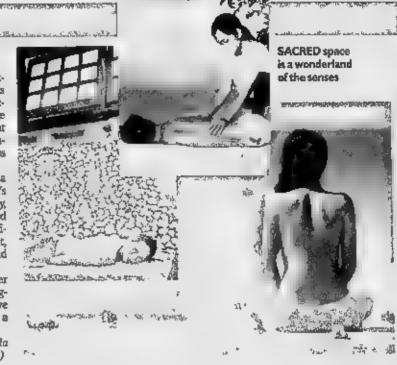
I was an all-too willing subject for total surrender, especially since the rising sum-mer heat, the toxic city stress (and not to mention some toxic city people) was causing my inner system to short-circuit. Thus, I submitted myself to Mandala's Signature Massage, also known in these parts as an hour and a half of pure bliss. This massage was especially created by the award-winning wellness sanctuary to

take you to a very deep state of relaxation. The aroma of special healing oils wafts through a private room for an olfactory billaby. Using long-stroke pressure and gentle stretches, it combines ancient healing techniques with a refined symphony of strokes to ensure a first-class ticket to la-la land.

The Mandala Signature Massage is a wonderful primer for the rest of the spa's treatments, including the Watsu therapy, where one is cradled in a specially heated pool, and the Shodhana Karma Detoxilication and Rejuvenation Treatment, which removes environmental toxins and stress by-products from the body.

So for you city slickers heading over to Boracay for some R n R, I highly suggest you invest in something you've probably neglected for quite a while-yourself.

(For more information, visit Mandala Spa's website at www.mandalaspa.com)



RIL 22, 2006





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Please visit www.mabuhaymiles.com to get the latest information on miles redemption.

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Promo evaliable to:







For more information on how to convert seried miles, make miles balance impuides, etc., please log on to www.smart.com.ph. or visit your rearest Smart Wireless Carrier. You may also call 889-1111, or 1889 on your Smart caliphone.

Per DTI-NCR Passit No. 2157 and 2161 Series of 2006

SATURDAY, **APRIL 22, 2006**

BORAGAY BOUND IS BACK THIS SUMMER. with even more exciting activities than everl Dubbed "The Biggest Post Holy Week Party," Boracay Bound started as a means of enjoying the gorgeous white shores of Boracay without the chaos and commercialism that normally crowds the beach during Holy Week. Five years later, it's still the most anticipated summer event, with its throng of beach followers and sun wotshippers agreeing that "the week after" is indeed, the most ideal time to head

The annual 3-day party satisfies every active taste from athletics to alcohol. With beach activities like Flag Football, 3G Adventure Race and Ray-Ban Adventure Relay. watch celebrities and models battle it out on the sand with the locals and tourists. At night, get ready to groove to the funkiest house tunes with Embassy Club's resident DJs Martin Pulgar and Owens Sun spinning in Cocomangas. ManoMission at Arla with Manolet Dario is also something to watch out for as Manila's proneer DJ plays his favorite summer beats. Cap off the rest of the weekend at Club Paraw with the ultimate Hip Hop Party and fashion show featuring the sexiest summer wear to beat the heat this scorching season.



BORACAY TROPICS RESORT HOTEL located at station 2 in the island of Boracay, is a tropical easis blending of Mediterranean and Asian architecture and interiors on a sprawling estate of verdant landscape.

It is mericulously designed to provide privacy, a bounty of breathing space and peaceful refuge from the bustle of the beachfront. The two three story building property encloses the exclusive and selfcontained sanctuary.

Most of the guest rooms have balcomes overlooking the giant bean shaped poor and the lush garden with trees. The hotel has 44 elegantly-appointed superior delune rooms and six cabana sustes. The premier suites include a receiving area, a kitcheneme. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning units, a mini-bar, a private shower with hot and cold water, a cable TV and an in-room safety deposit vault

The multi-purpose tropicafe restaurant situated at the ground floor serves a sump-tisous choice of the best oriental and westem cuisine white a har to unwind after a long adventurous day in the island.

KTV rooms warm up guests for a festive



Boracay nightlife. A health and nail spa is also available to pamper and soothe tired bodies. A children's game room, meanwhile keeps ands entertained with computer and board games while parents relax

For travelers who need to mux business and pleasure, there are seminar facilities designed for small or big events with rooms spacious enough for small groups to about 150 people, A modern business center is available to provide access to the everyday world.

Por details, please call Manila office at 687 1465, 667 3974, or 667 3942 or through email at infoborecaytropics.com



THE SPIRIT THAT CARES, Asian Spirit's Jack Po, Toti Torralba and Allen Mojica

Corecay

SO MANY STORIES HAVE BEEN TOLD about our beloved getaway island, but no one has ever thought of giving credit to the real unsung heroes of Boracay - their transport team, the people who bring us to the shores straight from Catician, who brings us from station to station, and who carry our heavy loads and our baggages.

Asian Spirit, which is celebrating its 10th year anniversary, teamed up with the local government of Mayor Ciceron Kawaling to tock off the first ever Malay (Boracay) Transport Service Awards.

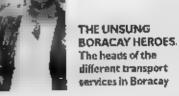
The project aims to give credit to the achievement of the tourism service providers that have helped the island's tourism grow There are many awards to be given out in cluding top tricycle drivers, boatmen, trans-

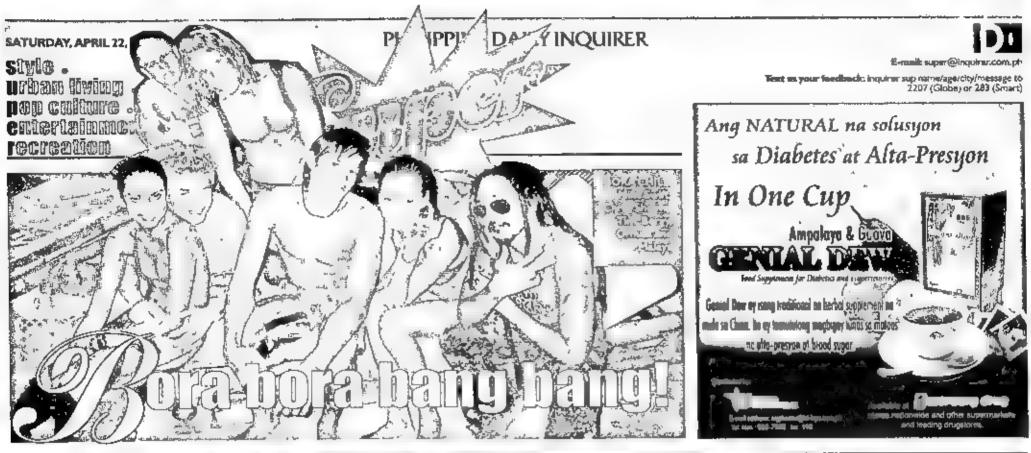
port cooperatives and porters in the island For the past 10 years, Asian Spirit has been a vital partner of Boracay in bringing in tourists to the Island, even from the time that it was just a backpacker's haven. It is just be ting that as they celebrate a decade of service to the island by recognizing the people who have shown outstanding service in building up the tourism growth in the island

Boracay is what it is partly because of

Contact the Asian Spirit at hotline 8553 (1)









F YOU SEE ME AROUND THE city anytime this whole month, that's not me.

Chances are, I'm on the sandy shores of my second home Peak season or habagar my heart will always be on high tide when it comes to Boracay.

Lickily for me and for my Addict mobile brood Holy Week has been a family tradition of resort hopping, sunset sessions and beach

Whereas other folks prefer their phones off during vacation time. I opt to carry it with me (what are pockets for?), especially now since I've asked Louie Ang and Nina Gomez to purpose.

Statue dance

By that I meant my Smart 3G service, which comes for free—take advantage of it this month? Technology at the beach, why not? I guess the overload of technology has been the reason for the constant brownouts that the island has been going through Ir left a bit like "startle dance" in some parts. But bey, when I'm sipping Mailbu pineapples one minute and dancing with Nicole Hernandez, Kelly Misa and Georgina Wilson the next, who am I to complain?

Holy Week 'n Bora may trans' ate to spring break in Cancum for some party peeps, and last week's was no different. There were just more abs on the island. And I'm not just take the party pro, the plans. From the amateur to the party pro, the Holy Week festivines had enough flavor to

spice up every partyph: ac's taste buds.

New restaurants were ap enry—there's Namo Zulueta's Cyma, Happy Ongpaucos Hawanan Bar-B-Q Geni Psinakis and Nikos Gitsis even have a new hotel cailed Zuzun, pius the space of Portuga, a at the new wing of D'Mal Manula imports were doing equally well. Trondz Cheng's Ice Monster had monster lines crawing for his ice carved desserts.

What else is new? Nino Zulueta and new parmer Aaron Sicat are venturing into reverse bungee imping and a little budge told me that there will be a new bounque hotel that will be put up right smack center of D'Mail. What should they call t? D'Bounque Hotel?







Sprinkled With Magic Augustate at all 6M, other lyading department alone and shee stores methorwide. Benchard y interinated by Rittimer I Wading Comparison, 822 Question City. Tyl Nr. 123-1475 of Visit was included.

So who's playing in Bora tonight?

DJ PAUL HILL (HED KANDI)—PALIES BACK ground has always been in music. His father had formed his first band in his early teens and been part of many bands and duos for as long as Paul can remember, Paul was even responsible for naming one of them. With his roots definitely set and with more musical influences than you can imagine, Paul started into music with electronic keyboards as early as 4 years old. As he got older the keyboards got bigger and more functional allowing him to record what he played. By the time Paul was a teenager he was into writing his own complete tracks using computers and "synths." After his GCSEs, Paul started a "Music Technology & Performing Arts" course at The B.R.LT. School in Croydon. "I had a fantastic two years, I made some great friends, met some amazing musicians, discovered some amazing music and learned a lot about production, music and myself."

Anton Ramos (The Real Sunset Boracay Sessions)—Anton Ramos produced the Chul-Out Project House Sessions One, Two & Three. He started with The Chillout Project, the radio program back in 1997 on 99 5 Rf. It focused on what was then the cutting edge sound of downtempo and trip hop. It enjoyed an unprecedented run as the lone electronica/dance music show on air until 2002. Now the show has been transferred to a new station. Anton is also a much sought after DJ, now famous for his House Sessions CDs which is the largest selling house/dance compilation series in the Philippines and in selected HMV Music Stores in Asia today.

Erwin Edralin (Slinky Pre-Party)—One of

the country's top senior DJs, critiques hailed him as the most promising talent to bit the local club circuit. This lead guitarist started to DJ at the early age of 16 at his brother's club, the legendary ABG's in Makati Within a decade of being the toast of Manua's music connoisseurs and club scene aficionados, he already performed for numerous international events such as Sundance '99, he opened for Matt Hardwick and Ashley Casselle of Gatecrasher in December of 1999, and co-billed with Ferry Corsten and Brano of Ibiza's Café Del Mar in October and December of 2000, and just recently opened for Brian Cross for the Amnesia Ib za Trance World Tour in Manda. Unique and often described as classy and subdued, his music never fails to be playful, funky, soulful and deep

er fails to be playful, funky, soulful and deep
a quality of musical taste that is solely his
own.
DJ Manster (Slinky Pre-Party)—Raised in

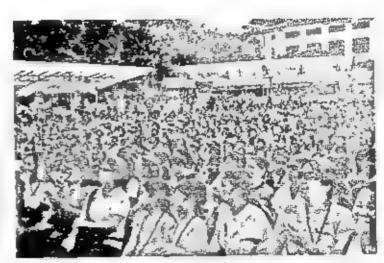
DJ Manster (Slinky Pre-Party)-Raised in Cebu, DJ Manster discovered paradise in Boracey on the onset of the miliennium. He origmaily planned to delve into kneboard training until he tried spinning disks at Hey Judel Bar and eventually took the job as the bar's resident DJ from then on. Although he appreciares the music of lan Pooley, Chus, Plump DJs, among others, he clings to his own style of playing music integrating the hortest new beats from around the world with the distinctive island vibe. Spinning electro house, funky house, deep house and break beats, DJ Mauster turns the house upside down and will definitely make you rise and strut your butts to the groove: Boracay rocks with DJ Manster in Asia today.



SMART REACHES SINGAPORE SHORES



Comedian Arnel Ignacio helped bring joy to our kababayans as host of the SMART Pinoy festivities



Fort Canning Park was filled with Pinoys during the "SMART Pinoy Kamustahan"



John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alorizh, Richard Gutierrez and Amel ignacio entertained the Pinoys gathered in Singapore



Dominic Ochoa greets his legions of fans - Richard Gutierrez gets more than a flower





PLDT Global President Al Panklio and Judy Ann Santos announce the lucky winner of the raffle draw

Even in "the Jon City", SMART Communications coand PLDT Global made their presence left. Together with partner Mobile One, SMART and PLDT faunched the first truly Pinov GSM Prepaid Service in Singapore with the introduction of the SMART Pinoy SIM card at Fort Canning Park on March 26 and April 2. The event was considered as the grandest Filipino product launch in Singapore with thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in attendance.

Celebrities such as Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agencillo, and Dominic Ochoa graced the March 26 event and turned the celebration into one dynamic Filipino party Matinee Idol Richard Gutierrez joined the love team of John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo in sweetening the April 2 affair Versatile host, comedian. and videoke master Arnel Ignacio served as master of ceremonies. The stars took part in singing contests, dished out song-and-dance numbers, and participated in photo opportunities with the gathered Plnoys.

As a local SIM card in Singapore, SMART Pinoy offers the lowest local and international text and call rates. Relatives and friends of SMART Pinoy subscribers in the Philippines can now enjoy the one-peso text rate being offered for SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers for every text message sent to a SMART Pinoy user in Singapore. SMART Pinoy offers electronic load at a very affordable SG\$5, SG\$10 and SG\$15 denomination, as well as the capability to send e-load to SMART subscribers in the Philippines at P30, P60, P115 and P200 denominations. A flat rate of international direct dial access thru 15-61 is also available. To lessen the homesidiness of Pinoys in Singapore, they can also download all-Filipino downloadable content and information on-demand tike SSS contribution updates, foreign exchange rates and Philippine heading news.

Top executives from PLDT and SMART supported the much-awaited launch thru their presence on the two Sundays, PLDT Global President Alfredo S. Panilio and

PLDT Singapore General Manager Enrique "Rey" Gonda Yu were more than satisfied with the turn-out for the event. According to Pantitio, "What made this event truly much special is that we were able to bring superior entertainment to the Overseas Filipino Workers in Singapore together with a SIM card that is customized for the needs of OFWs and their families in the Philippines.*

With the launch of SMART PINOY in Singapore, SMART and PLDT Global have brought the OFWs a



The Sweet Spot

dent muste industry may lack the stadium-stomping, studio-bred babies of today, but they are home to some of the brightest lights in the scene. Attracting everyone from mods and

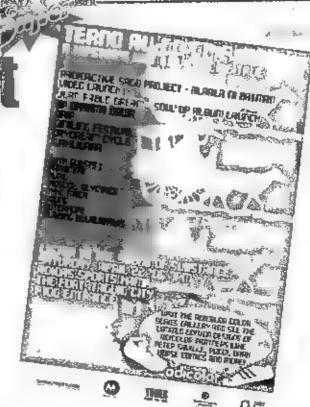
Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenco-Dario

eryone from moos and puppies, the popular bumonthly party, "Terno Au Go Go: A Hipster's wet Dream Come True," is turning out to be one of the most eagerly-awaited Anti-"it" events in town.

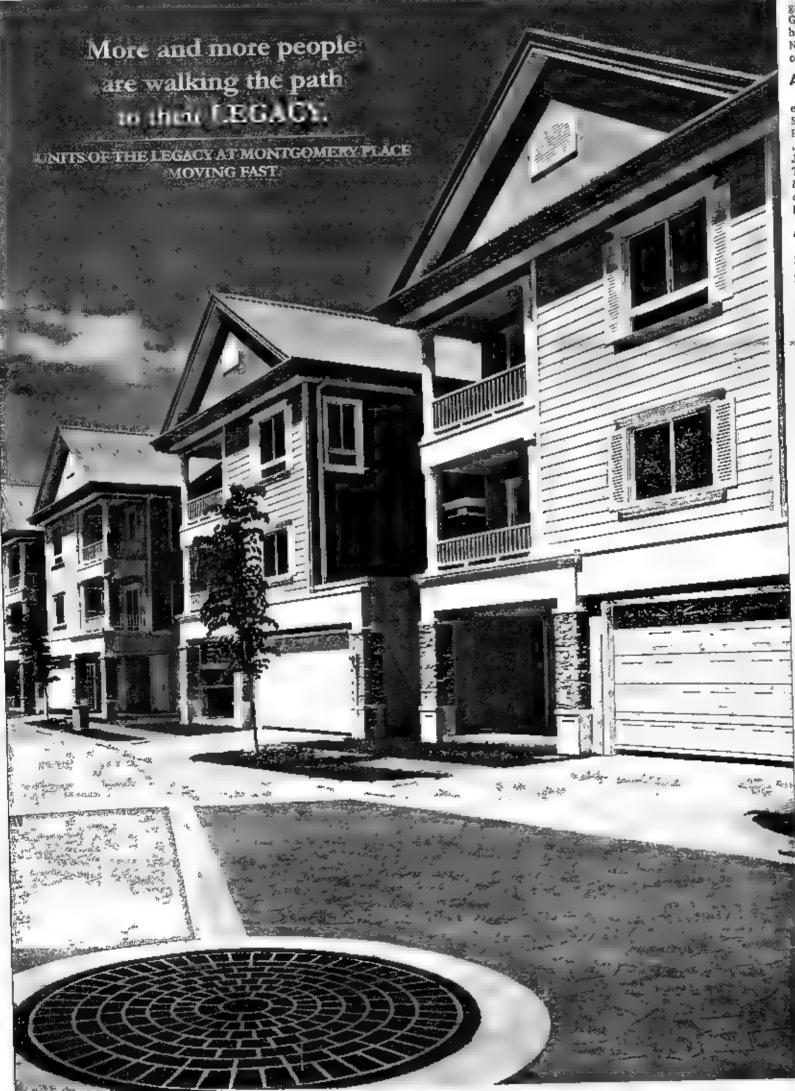
The label night of indic music outfit Terno Records, the crowd-drawing concert was created to showcase the talents of the six diverse artists under its wing. Radioactive Sago Project, Juan Pablo Dream, Drip, Up Dharma Down, Wahijuara, and Ginihng Pestival. Carch the 7th Terno Au Go Go party
torught at 7 p.m. at
the Adidas Sports
Kamp, Port Bonifacto
Global City, Taguig
(also the venue, incrdentally, of Adidas'
Adicolor Series
Gallent, which fea-

Gallery, which features the limited edition designs of Adidas partners Pucci, Peter Saville, and others) Other live acts slated to perform are Paramita, Pupil, Moscow Olympics, Nyko Maca, Sound, Outerhope, and Blazing Bulalaraws

Music impresario Toti Dalmacion, the branchild behind Terno and Groovenation, invites you to come ower, challenge your pop sensibilities, and listen to the sweet "sound of substance." For P100, that really doesn't sound too shabby. Call 844-4656.



X AyalaLand Premier





A precious heritage is about to unfold - The Legacy at Montgomery Place's first Franche is now ready for two-over. Single detached houses and quadruplexes in one of the most secure and desired communities right in the heart of Quezon City. The Legacy is your enclave amadst the bustling city. where the peacefulness within belies its closeness to everything you need. It's the perfect place for your children, and your children's children, to grow. Only units in Transhe 2 and 3 are still open for those who seek this bind of exclusivity. Soon, it will be a full thriving community. Mabe sure you're a part of it.

LEGACY

il: 728-7000 • www.ayalalandpremier.com • ask@ayalalandpremier.com

Other Super! 24/7 events:

April 22, Saturday

Hed Kandi Beach House at Hey Jude (Boracay), Speed Dating at 10/F Somerset Millennium Suites, Termo Au Go Go 7 at Adidas Sports Kamp, Freshly Squeezed at Citrus, 20something Saturday w/ GP Reyes & Stephen Ku at Mezze; Dis Chip dela Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine, Pump Saturdays at Jill's, Fluxxe at 6 Underground, Di Badboy Jeff at Temple, Wham Bam w/ Bam dei Valle at Government; Dis Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed, Campusition Night at Mag Net Café, DR Productions at Conspiracy; Classified at Dish, Pin kpikan at '70s Bistro

April 23, Sunday

Christian Lacroix. Dialoguesitat Afe Aylaia Museum, Olazo & Olazo exhibit at Gaderia Duemila, Fibrpinas. Isa Lorenzo exhibit at UP Vargas Museum, Jaime Zobel exhibit at Ayala Museum, Kuhang Marino exhibit at UP Vargas Museum

April 24, Monday

Haranang Bayan feat. Por Galang at Conspiracy; Ethan band at Tempie, I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makan Dawn at Merk's, Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar, Fornes de Mwah at Club Mwah

April 25, Tuesday

Salsa Night w/ Salsa Pilipinas at Mezze, Gesare Syjuco, Cooky Chua, and Mike Villegas at Conspiracy, Bridge at '70s Bistro; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt, Kickback Tuesdays at Manua DJ Club. Accustic Night at Temple, Flintstones at Dish, Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

April 26, Wednesday

Up Dharma Down at '70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays with DJ Boyer Almazan at Strumm's, Glow at M Cafe, Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze, Funksouljah at Mania DJ Club, Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati, DJ Crash at Tempie, DJ Brit at Government, Acoustic Night at 6 Underground, Way Back Wednesdays at Bed, Jazz Night at Mag Net Café Katipunan, Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy

April 27, Thursday

NBK's Zouk feat. DJ B & Manolet Darto at Embassy Club, Rivermaya at Dish; Acoust c Jam 2: Open Mic Night at Conspiracy, Brownman Revival at '70s Bistro'; Stily Peoples Improv Theater (SPIT) at Mag Net Cafe Katipunan, Fluxxe Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaye at Bed, DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

April 28, Friday

Celestial w/ DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze, Superfly Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; Pat Boone at Araneta Col.seum, Joey Ayala at Conspiracy

Twisted Pair at Dish Decadance w/ Boyet Aimazan at Jill's, HouseBeats w/ DJ Mark de Leon at Man, MyHOJSE at M Cafe, DJ Brit at Government, Jive Fridays at Temple, The Jerks at '70s Bistro, Gogo Pridays at Bed, Takeover Pridays at Prince of Ja pur; Route 70 at Merk's

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7 com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7 com and mag24_7@yahoa.com



STING

Jazz, fizzle, pop

SONY BMG RECENTLY RELEASED THE much anticipated new aibum of pop jazz standards from acclaimed trumpeter Chris Botti and nine superstar guest vocalists entitled "To Love Again," the successor to Botti's worldwide success

"When I fai, In love."

"To Love Again" showcases Chris Botti's immitable velvet tone and sublime trumpet phrasings on 13 newly recorded pop and jazz standards featuring time stand out voca, performance by some of the greatest singers in modern pop, jazz

and rock
Joining Chris on "To Love Again" are
guest vocalists, Sting, Paula Cole,
Michael Bublé, Jill Scott, Paul
Buchanau, Gladys Knight, Renee Oistead, Rosa Passos and even Steve Tyler
Chris Botti's "To Love Again" is available

in CDs in all record stores nationwide.







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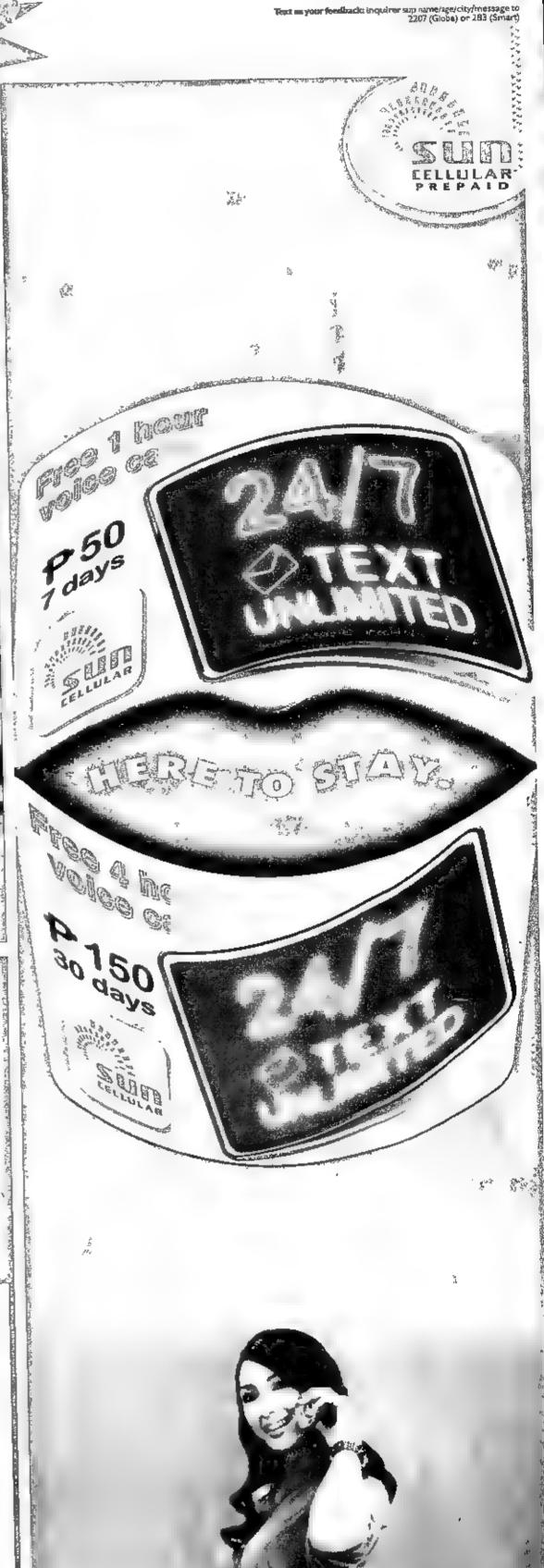


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Dance Up a **Summer Storm**

What happens when the country's most beloved theme park gets into the summer groove? You get this season's be test celebration Enchanted Kingdom's Festivate Danze!

Postrvalo Danze is a musical parade that brings together a colorful mix of dances from all over the world, and now spreads them all across the expansive grounds of Encliented Kingdom. Fast of the spirit and exuberance of the youth, it is a tribute to the radiant magic of summer

Never before will he streets of Enchanted Kingdom overflow with so much life. Artistic director Freduce. Santos, the appointed visionary behind this spectacle, made sure of that. He look inspiration from the Park's vanous rides and homes to come up with a diverse program of stunning moves and grooves. Among Jem are

- · Barlumos, a super-charged Latin and hip-hop
- The Victorian Court, a combination of classic n muct formations and breakaway dance grooves
 The Brooklyn Swingers, a full swinging,

buogre-overflowing state

- Jungle Nauves, a rhythmic assault of the senses, with fire-enters hearing up the act Boulderville Cartoonix top re-arranger Spike longs creates a musical mayhem, where comedy and movement prove they're a good
- Street Life, a rousing number by the Drams and Lyre Marching Bana, one of the country's youngest and most outstanding bands, and Lagana's pride and joy

 Exodus Reborn, a beaut fully chorcographed
- performance that brings the award-wirming
- movie of fe
 Au-Auhen Rhythms, he percussion group keeps the wild bear going al' throughout the
- Endur's Speti, Enchanted Kingdom's beloved ruler Eidar and characters from the much loved comic book Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom lean numerices into one dunce after and her with Just a magness wove of the Wizard's wand

And we haven't even mentioned the dazzing fireworks yet! rust another small attention to Brohented Kingdom's newest and biggest attraction this summer. Kicking off at 5pm every Saturday and Sunday starting April 22, white the park itself is open everyday 'til June 4, from 4pm to 12mb on weekdays, and. Oppn to 12ron on weeklass and

You'll have plenty of time to make the rapst out of summer. So long as you make your way to Euchanise Kingdom - for the magical beats and rhythms of Festivale Danzel



obbed

I WAS A NICE MORNING IN SINGApore. I woke up really early in my room in the super Scarlet Hotel, 50 I went down to the looby to borrow free DVDs. I was still kinds groggy, so I thought I was hallucinating when I saw three of the ugliest creatures on the planes trying to check mar the desk.

The nice lady was trying to explain that check-in time's at 12 moon, but the airmals wouldn't listen. "We want a room!" it was seven in the morning. Now, I needed to pass the time watching DVDs, so I went up to the desk. And that turned out to be a really bad idea.

The devils turned towards me, and then one of them grabbed me., by the knee My knees are extremely ticklish. So looked into the thing's eyes, and I knew what it wanted. They wanted my room

What followed was twenty minutes of really bad luchadore wrestling. One of them reached into my pocket and snatched my Moto SLVR and said he was going to crush it. That's how they won the match against me and the receptionists. They then fied me up, and brought me to my room

A few minutes later, they demanded an interview. They still have my SLVR. That's why this is published.

Who are you?

Lenny. Ohmygod, you don't recognize as?! We're TV personalities! Celebrines! Stars! Serious actors. I-you're just out of the radar.

Donny: We're with MTV Mobbed! Gus. Slarp, slurp

What are you guys up to? Lenny: World domination, little Asian

You can't do that. Donny Yes we can, we're American! I

mean, no, we're not American. I'm confused

Gust You wear panties. Donny They're not panties they're just

What's your plan?

You don't have one.

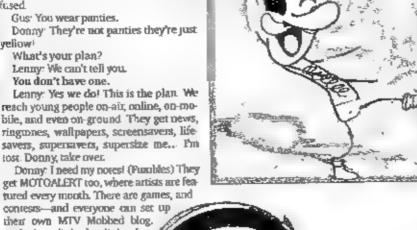
Lenny: Yes we do! This is the plan. We reach young people on-air, online, on-mobile, and even on-ground They get news, ringtones, wallpapers, screensavers, lifesavers, supersavers, supersize me.. I'm

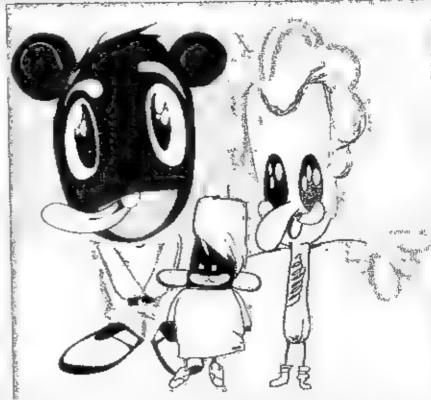
get MOTOALERT too, where artists are featured every month. There are games, and

contests-and everyone can set up their own MTV Mobbed blog. And then little by little the youth of Asia starts looking like us, Mwahahaha.

Donny and Leany hahaha.

0





and the later with the second of the second Gus: 1 like chewing gum. Lenny We will rule. Asia and um,

then the world! People aren't going to buy any of that. Donny: Yes they will Every time they interact with Mobbed they get moorah Gus Moolah!

Lenny: They get boory too-artist merchandise, concert tickets, and collectibles and stuff.

You b*stards. I will stop you. Lenny No you can't If you do anything

to stop us... we'll give you a phone for free just to shut up. Cough.

Donny That's why we give phones away on mivmobbed.com, h's elementary, really

Gus: Lenny likes girl bands.

Lenny Shut up, Gus. You'll never get away with it.

Donny: When you're with Mobbed you get away with anything

Lenny: Fve chewed gum in Singapore.

Ooh, what a rush. They asked me to write this. And I did

because I fear for my life: You guys can text MOBBED < space > MOBME to 2959, to start your super cool Mobbed experience, Watch Mobbed on Sundays at 10 20 a.m., and Wednesdays at 9:50 a.m. Go to mobbed myasia.com, and have the fun of your life-Episodes of Donny, Lenny, and Gus's adventures are on the website Ex-



Leany

The pink-skinned greenporter of chewing gum, for . band member (18 bands beartist and former toys salesi site selling ad banner space ng with his good friends has

Loves: Gir bands, triple e thing, David Lee Roth but alonly wears nice white under stons, he likes to show up it from Japan.

E US

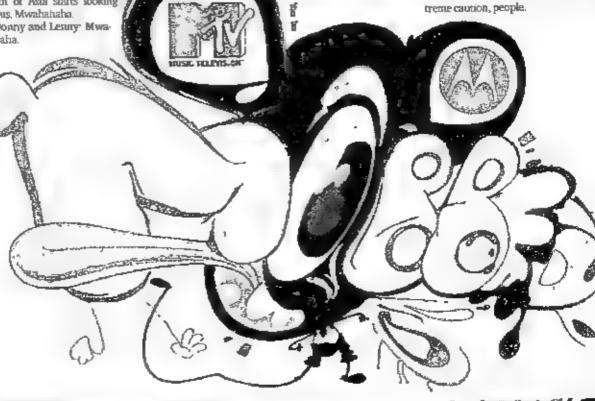
Leader, most prominent, equad. Good sense for pran-



evid na ip COVES Bacharac Mani-

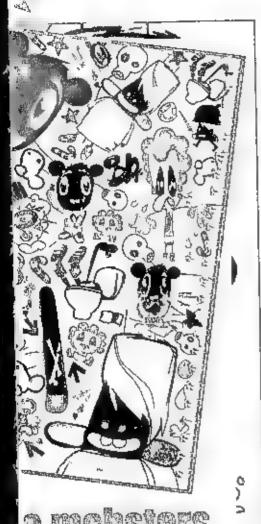
sing line her His ton's righter

or in the state of the









Aww.mtvmobbed.com)

ioustached oldest of the crew is a former imisr B-movie extra former band manager, former ween 1971 1996 alone), former manga comic ran. He now makes his money running a webwhich means he has nothing to do besides being fan

ing so on the rocks hot curry sauce on every to contemporary stuff such as tied Zeppelin. He lants and fresh white sport socks. On occalisashy hip-hop bling mixed with aneakerwear.

conic figure, but not most popular figure in the jokes, extreme stants iphysical activity. He

knows an about the latest news and is a big fan of socalled weird news (dog saves 30 Singaporean tourists from obesity)

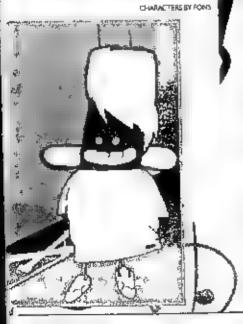
Loves. Chewing gum especially the Euro-Imported kind (that's the reason why he and Lenny met back in the day Lenny was importing the gum from France). Any intid music with guitars preferably or music with a singling saw Gus knows a of really a lot) about gangster movies. He speaks various ranguages badly

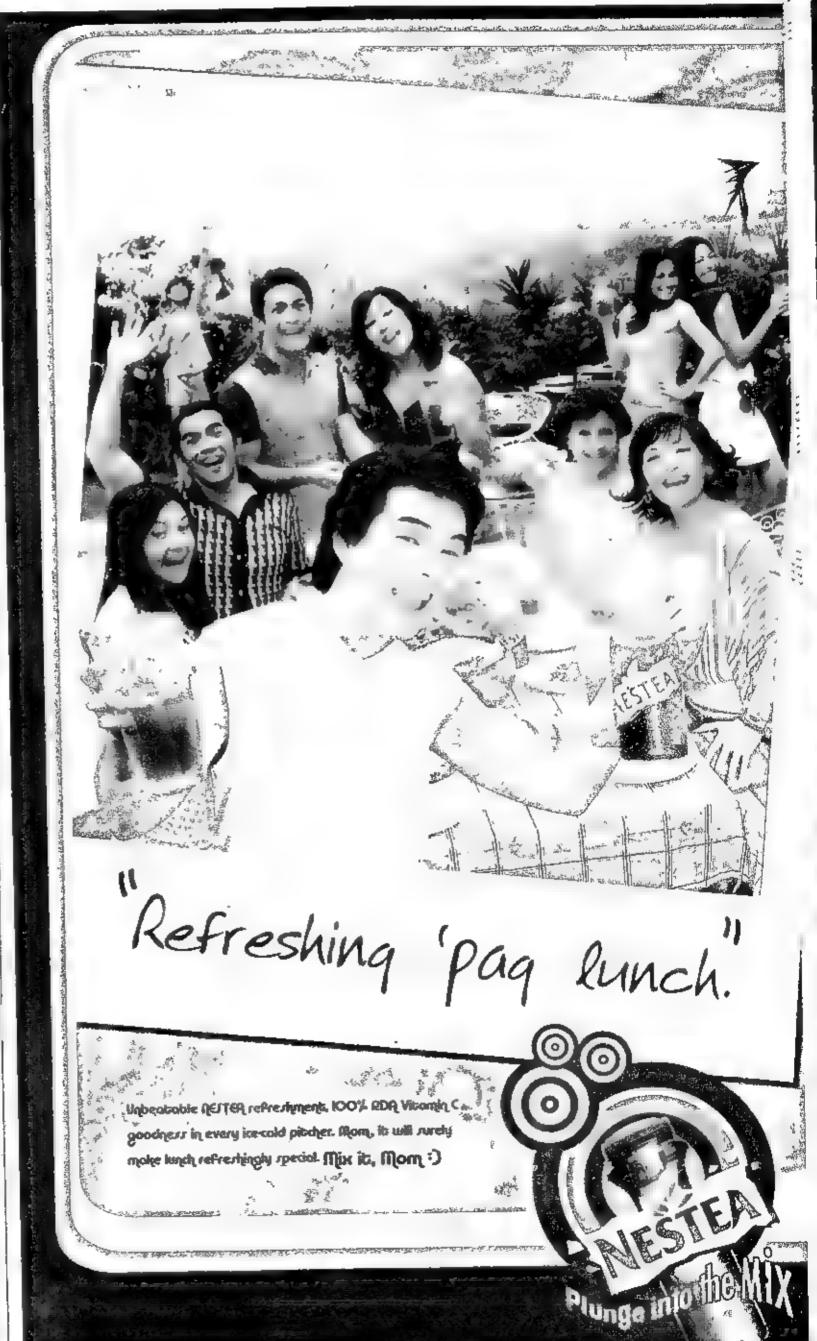
Doubley

Pro surfer gone model. An energetic, heads down, at good kinda guy. Very popular with the radies ("he's so cute") Lives a healthy Californian kind of ilestyle even though he was born and

e between Australia and Sumatra (but nobody an remember is surfing offshore one day and

neass Superstar Dizzy Paskall, Burt all, not really that he likes her he just likes to imitation but slightly offkey) Seaweed saiad, shake carrot pizza, hot chocolate, anything







There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, get ready for Festiva:e Danzel A stunning, parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzlel Debuting on April 22, 5pm.





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Open a DreamSavers Account and get a chance to win a trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland.

Standard Chartered Bank, as the Official Bank Sponsor of Hong Kong Disneyland, is proud to introduce its latest offering the DreamSavers Account.

Open your account today and get a raffle ticket that could bring you and your family to Hong Kong Disneyland, With a DreamSavers Account, your child a excitement is sure to grow along with his savings.

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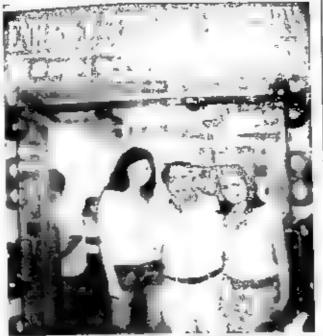




Watch the excitement grow when you call 830-1111 today. Provide name States Marrots 20 to June 20, 2006. Pay Olfs-InCR Paymer, No. 1887. Souther of 2006. ne nee brochures for complete MAC







*Enhance Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Care Center celebrated its first SM Fairview branch Anniversary tast March 12, 2006 with a free musical show at SM Fairview Annex Entertainment Center featuring its models/endorsers Francine Prieto and Darling Laviria. Enhance main clinic is located at SM North-EDSA Annex. basement level and has been existing for over 6 years From left to right: Francine Prieto, Dr. Reynaldo David, Cosmetic Surgeon/Owner, and Darling Levina.

CULINARY SCHOOL

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

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PUHE FOUDS









Super expresses its sincerest condolonces to a brother, a colleague, a friend `a maverick and leader in the fashion industry. As are sident of the Young Designers Guild, Met Vergel de Dios has pioneered the vision of young Filipino dosign becoming globally competitive. Always on the cutting edge and guiding young filipino design talent, Mei has been instrumentai in melding our generation of designers. Last April 20, Mol joined hands with the Lord

and is now kappily creating designs for the angels abeve. Lucky for the cherubs but for us here, his staters. friends and family,

who era stack on earth with clothes that he has

masteriully designed, he will he serely missed.

Mel will be remembered net

for his death but tar bis life

Bout the ounteen bout with MULIC CENTIFE o aummor fundades

ummer days are so hot you. can imagine beach scenery complete with tall coconut trees, hammocks and cold fruit shakes right inside your home as you sweat and daydream about that beach vacation. But even if that beach vacation is far-off, you can always settle back in the comforts of your living room and just beat the summer heat by doing stuff you like, such as watching DVDs or stocking up on ice creams and cold drinks.

To help you beat the summer heat, Automatic Centre sets up two unbeatable appliance exhibits to help you spend and enjoy summer days within the comforts of your home, or on long trips to beaches and cool mountain areas.

Automatic Centre Summer Pantasy is now ongoing at Edsa Central Pavilion and Alabang Town Center. Both exhibits that showcase appliances and gadgets to help you beat the summer beat will run until May

Automatic Centre exhibits are a must-see as the country's "Appliance Authority" offers an array of products that will surely make

AUTOMATIC/F2



from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER and from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION

· Audiovax · Canon · Cauled Condura. Kelvinstor · Electrolizad Vitrilla Wastinghouse · Hitachi · Hyundai · iPod · JMC · Kolin/Syntax · Konka «La Germania » LG - Neuthase - Parasonic - Philips - Pioneer « Sanasung » Sensuli - Stvarp « Sony » Toshiba - Whistpool



Whirlpool SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

THE WORLD OF WHIRLPOOL

Overall efficiency and elegance has never been executed as effectively as Whirlpool has. Producing appliances that feature top one of the widely used

home appliances both here and in the United Whirlpool appliances also do functional murvels

in your home. Welcome to the world of Whirippol.

A Whiripool refrigerator is the definition of cool. Equipped with 360° Surround Cool and Quick Cooling Systems, our refrigerators generate and even-out temperature in no time at all. Appearance wise, our classy design exudes sophistication. We have designed a sleek look for our refrigerators by producing contoured doors, handles and edges with a smooth,

high-gloss finish; thus breaking the old and baxy look traditional appliances.



As for microwave overs, Whirlpool designed them to be as compact as they are efficient. Whirtpoot microwave ovens cook and heat your food in an instant. Aside from their standard functions, Whirlpool Microwave Dyens also have a Quartz Grilling function that is perfect for all your roasts and barbeques, Moreover, a Double Emission System comes with these microwave overs to

ensure perfectly even-cooking without leaving any cold spots. Enjoy indoor grilling and microwave no other Whirtpool Ovens.

Now when it comes to keeping it Whirlpool Washers are revolutions ahead of competition. With speeds reaching up to 750rpm, Whirlpool Washers remove dist - providing you with the whitest white possible. Our washers have different cleaning actions; each built for various washing and cleaning needs.

Function and flair -- definitely the two elements that make a Whirlpool Home Appliance. Take home a Whirlpool appliance now and sense the difference. www.whirlpool.com.ph

A WHISPER OF PURITY





ASK 24 2.5 hp

44

Set yourself free. Relax to a rejuvenating chill only Whirlpool's Whispure Split-Type Airconditioner can give you. Break free from the soot and grime of the urban jungle and breathe in cool air that is fresh and therapeutic at the same time. With its Ionizer Filter, 6th Sense technology, and Jet Mode function, relaxation is more than just a luxury.

Whirlpoot's Whispure Split Type Airconditioner. It's a heavenly experience.

Also available in 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 horsepowers.

Enjoy free Installation* and zero interest for 6 months for every purchase of a Whiripool Split Type Airconditioner.

"Buck to buth festallation up to 10 ft only.



References negative ions are released to the air to bill. bacteria, eliminate meny allergy causing particulates. and clear the air of south and other replets not smells. thes purifying and freshearing the air you breathe.



6TH SENSE TECHNOLOGY

Whitepast 6th Souse sensor control has "Intelligent" sonsors that detect temperature dranges and make adjustments to preserve optimum cooling conditions. 6th Sense technology also saves energy by only cooling when needed



Whirtpool Spiit Type eir conditioners feature a Jet Mode function, which is used to start or stap last moting. In Jet Hode, you can cool a hot, average-sized room it a matter of minutes.

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SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Special Project

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this summer fun, enjoyable and memorable.

Staying at home, frolicking in the sand and the sea, breathing cool mountain breeze, enjoying road trips to top summer destinations. your vacation is a special moment to fill with exciting and memorable activities. Don't let that moment pass without you capturing it so always keep your trusted gadgets handy.

Don't forget to pack a digital camera

Grand scenic spots in the country abound. But nothing compares to the smile of your child basking in the sun, playing in the waters, and building his or her first sand castle. Don't let this moment go by Pack a digital camera, which now has become affordable and convenient to use that you can share your child's photograph instantly with loved ones here and

abroad. Prices of digital cameras have drastically gone down and everyone can appreciate the technology. From the low 3.1 megapixels, digital cameras today offer 8-megapixeis resolutions. So if you are a hobbyist or a professional photographer, you can choose from wide selections of digital cameras.

Find Canon, Casio, Kodak, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Sony and a lot more cameras at Automatic Centre exhibits.

Better yet, make your movie

Photographs in prints or digital form make for a perfect documentation of your travels, and the chance for people to display their artistic abilities, but capturing the happy gathering on video would also be a perfect long-term "keepsake".

The latest video cameras in the market get more and more advanced. Others are getting smaller and handy too. Capturing the people's fancy nowadays are the camcorders that come in with a hard disk. While others record on mini discs or DVDs that can be plugged directly to various media like TVs or PCs to view and save the contents.

For all your camera and video needs, Automatic Centre's specialists would be glad to inproduce you to the latest camcorders or video cameras available in the market. Whatever recording medium you prefer (mini-DV, DVD) or hard-disk), Automatic Centre makes sure lesses specer treested goods de lesseday

that you don't miss a thing this summer by getting your hands on a brand new camcorder at very reasonable prices at affordable payment terms and with fabulous freebies.

Bring your movies and music with you

Got a bored child with you during your cruise to the islands? Long trips aren't your children's cup of tea. They do get bored and sometimes cranky. To ward off that boredom, bring a portable DVD player and let them enjoy their favorite cartoons on board. Take your favorite movies with you and watch them from where you are staying-in the beach or in your

When you just want to board a bus and enjoy traveling at night, ball yourself to sleep with music from your Pod or MP3 player, Load them up with various types of music that will suit your mood during the trip.

Automatic Centre offers the perfect solution to keep you and your family entertained whether in a car, on a boat or a plane. Equip yourself with digital music players from iPod and Creative and listen to your favorite songs. Better yet enjoy a movie on your portable leddvd players from Audiovox and Nextbase.

Enjoy summer in your living room

Summer is the perfect time of the year to feed your Hollywood and local film cravings and the perfect venue is your living room equipped with the latest entertainment appli-

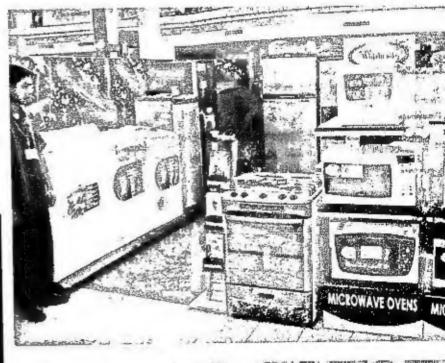
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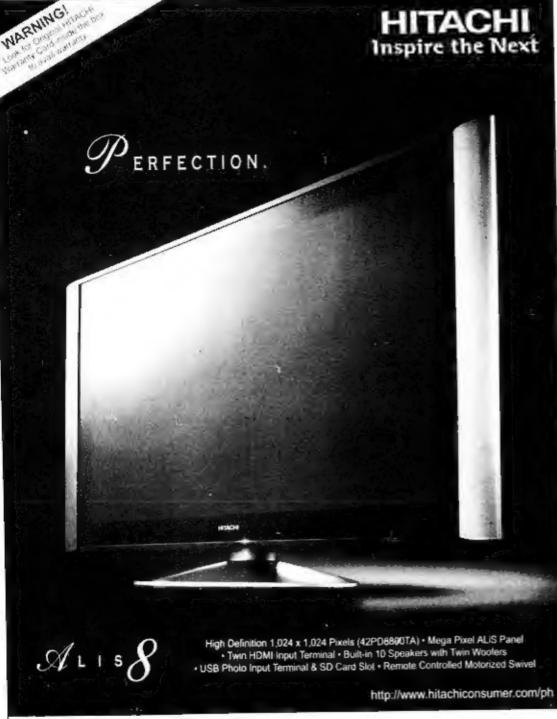
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from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER and from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION

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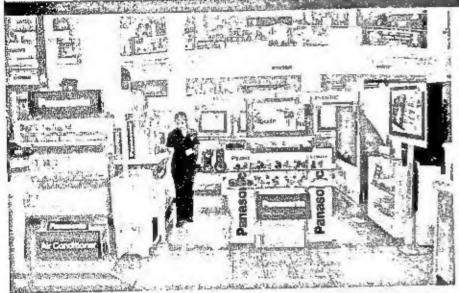
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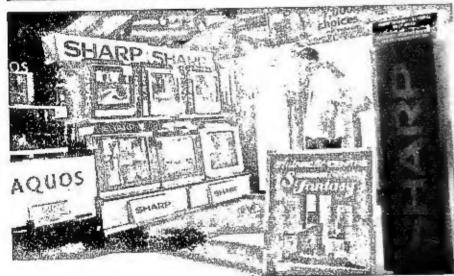
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level, consult an audio-video specialist at any Automatic Centre who will gladly assist you in setting up your own home theater system. From the simplest to truly cinema quality systems, Automatic Centre can belp you find the right solution for you.

As to affordability, several home theater systems are now reasonably priced. Manufacturers are getting more aggressive in giving people the better technology. Plasma TVs, Di.P.LCD, can now be purchased at reasonable terms with offers like 0-percent interest for up to 24 months.

Feel a refreshing

Prevent sweating and fanning yourself incessantly and cool down with the help of an air conditioner. The "hottest" product during the warm months is the one that "cools" you

Survive the heat with a new air conditioner. Split-type air conditioners are now much preferred by some households. Why? It is much quieter and offers a host of features that improve the quality of the air.

AUTOMATIC/F4



Come consideration of the Contrapply of the contrap from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER

med from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION



SHARP

BOTTOM SPEAKER, STUNNER.

Watch your favorite movies in stunning enhanced audio on a TV with stunning good looks. This design will surely make you home look charmingly elegant.



ROOM CENTERPIECE.

Bring your family closer, watch TV together. This classy design is tailor fit to be the main attraction in your living room. Plus, with its dual side speaker design, the superior quality sound can be enjoyed by everyone in the room. Now that's family oriented.



Save on space, not on style. The bottom speaker design and 21-inch view screen makes this stylish TV perfect for your bedroom.



WHATEVER LOOKS GOOD TO YOU, IT'S SHARP.

Energy-saving function. Adjustable acreen brightness to conserve electric

Great Connection.
The Video Audie comput line terminals allow you to connect audio amplifiers and monitors, while the Audio/Video IN terminals let you hook-up your VCR, DVD, and VCD players.

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S

Stand-out sound. Enhanced sudin technology with MTS/SAP function on selected models.

Blue screen display. A seel blue screen display comes on in case of poor channel signal.

SHARP.



Selected models are available in 21, 25 and 29 inch variants.

1

The Sharp Flat TV Series

www.sharp.ph

Automaticaentra bandallo

From page F3

Aside from that, it is space saving. Some brands have come up with a new product which instantly cleans itself at given days. So you don't have to clean the filter which is sometimes time-consuming every so often.

Some split-type air conditioners already have ionizers, filters, and other features that fight off air pollution. Some brand available at the Automatic Centre offers free installation of split-type aircons.

Automatic Centre has great deals on the latest cooling appliances including air-conditioners from trusted brands such as Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Kolin, LG, Panasonic, Samsung and many more.

Make your stay at home even cozier, by bringing home fantastic refrigerator and freezer finds that are sure to keep your favorite drinks and refreshments ice-cold and fresh under the scorching heat of summer. Global brands Fisher & Paykel, Fridgidaire, Whirlpool and White-Westinghouse are just a few of the choices that are available at your "Appliance Authori-

There is so much to do with and so many gadgets and appliances to choose

Automatic Centre, now on its 58th year, has 16 branches nationwide. It offers everything and anything you need this summer for the home, the office, or

on the road.

Automatic Centre has been making summers enjoyable for Filipinos over the past 58 years. Established in 1948, the Appliance Authority understands the varying needs of consumers and always strives to find a solution appropriate for specific enstoner needs. Visit one of its branches and talk to its people to find out how to make the most of your Summer 2006.

Make this summer vacation exciting by planning activities with family and friends. Have more fun than you intend to have with the handy, pocket electronic gadgets, home and office appliances available at Automatic Centre.



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From APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER



PANASONIC AIR CONDITIONERS: The way to fight

the invisible bousebold enemy

WE USUALLY FIND OURSELVES shuming the outdoors for fear of inhaling airborne viruses and bacteria. Overprotective mothers would rather lock their kids up inside their homes than get themselves dirty playing outdoors with their friends.

Very few of us, however, are aware that indoor air quality is actually fast becoming the world's top environmental health problem. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency found out that indoor air pollution is two to 10 times worse than outdoor.

Surprisingly, the EPA study also showed that air pollution levels in many well-insulated homes is even higher than the most polluted cities in the world. This is why a lot of people develop asthma and other respiratory diseases even when they stay indoors most of the time.

In the Philippines alone, about eight million Filipinos have respiratory problems and over six million children have asthma, making the Philippines the allergy capital of Asia. A nationwide study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas shows about 12.4 percent of children 14-15 years old are afflicted with asthma.

So how do you fight the invisible enemy in your household environment? Fortunately, Panasonic has come up with another bright idea that promotes reduction of sources of poliution while improving ventilation indoors through a new line of window and split type air conditioners.

The new Panasonic Air Conditioners now perform more than just cooling because they are developed with the Super Alleru-Buster Filter technology that the employs three functional materials to deactivate various harmful elements such as Anti-allergen for Pollen and Dust mixes, Anti-Virus and Bio-Elimination for Bacteria and mould.

Another good news is, the Panasonic Window Type Air Conditioner has a very high Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) at 11.7. Government regulation for EER is at least at 9.3 kJ/Wh for 12,000 BtU/hr and below and 8.8kJ/Wh for 12,000 BtIJ/hr and above.

Panasonic Air Conditioners also have a Super Quiet feature that is as low as 39 decibels, producing lesser noise than a quiet library which is 40 decibels. This was made possible through a redesign of the air inlet to the turbo fan which greatly reduces wind-shear noise as well as the reinforcing of sound insulation.

Breakthrough innovation

The Split Type Air Conditioner, meanwhile, introduces the unique Auto Filter Cleaning feature-a break-through innovation in the cooling industry. The auto cleaning system works exactly like the conventional filter cleaning method of sweeping, vacuuming and discarding the filtered dust but without the physical effort-a technological advancement that makes it hassle-free for you and your family.

Another feature of the Split Type Air Conditioner is the Supersonic AP System with auto refresh deodorizer that keeps indoor air-fresh and odor-free,

We cannot undermine the importance of cleaning the filters if we want to avoid problems such as lower air volume and air con efficiency, increased noise, and unpleasant odors.

With the new Panasonic Air Conditioners, your family will not just stay and as the temperature starts to heat up for summer, they will stay sufe and healthy mo. Truly making your family experience a feeling that's more than cool, more than clean.